

What is a Covenant?

A covenant is a sacred promise that is verbalized, much like a wedding. It is a statement of belonging which means “I belong to you and will be faithful to use my strength to make you flourish.” The wedding ceremony, however, is not the origination of this promise, but rather the sacred public verbalization of this covenant already made to God and one’s spouse from one’s heart. In this way, a covenant is the earnest statement of the intention to keep one’s word, as Jesus told us to let our “yes” be kept in solemn fidelity (Matt 5:36-37; James 5:12). We know that we may fail our word, and because of sin will require the mercy and grace of each other when we do. Yet, together as one Body we desire to follow the desire of Jesus, who prayed that we might be one (John 17:20-21), and verbalize our intention and commitment to one another in such a covenant. We say, “yes”, to what God has done and is doing, and to our desire and intention to walk in a manner worthy of this calling which we have received (Eph 4:1-3). In the same way, this covenant between those of EBF is the sacred public verbalization of our commitment to Christ and to one another (Acts 2:42; Heb 10:24-25; Rom 12:10-11), as those who belong to Christ and to one another (1 Cor 10:16-17; 11:17-12:31; Rom 12:1-10; Col 3:15; Eph 4:1-5:10), united by faith in Him alone, to honor God and one another with sacred love in all that the Word of God commands us.

The verbalization of this reality will be placed into a covenantal statement of two parts to be read together **April 3rd, 2016**. These two parts are: Affirmation (affirming the Reality of what God has already done, for us who believe, by uniting us to Christ and one another in one Body of many parts), and Promise (promising to live consistently with this Reality of what God has done for us in Christ and commanded in His Word).

Would you prayerfully consider for yourself if you can affirm and covenant with one another, according to the following covenant, so that we might all be encouraged that we truly are one body of many parts? Would you affirm, together, that you are devoted to Christ and to one another for the singular purpose that God might be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ our Lord, as it has been revealed in the gospel which the apostles proclaimed, and we have believed?

EBF Church Covenant:

“In light of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and having been brought by divine grace to repentant faith in Him, we affirm that we are one people bought with His blood.

We affirm that, as one people, we belong to one another, each individual member being necessary to the glory of the Church and being sanctified by the Spirit of God for the glory of Christ. We affirm that each member is gifted by God’s Spirit for the building up of the Church into the knowledge of the Son of God. We affirm that we were redeemed to walk in holiness, as beloved children of the holy Father.

Having affirmed these truths, we desire, by the grace of God, to walk consistently with them, as a family fully committed to one another with wholehearted affection and faithfulness.

Therefore, in dependence upon the effective power of the Holy Spirit within us, we commit ourselves to one another with these promises. I promise to:

- 1) seek and serve the Lord with my whole heart, for His glory, submitting to the Spirit of God to transform me into the likeness of Jesus,
(Ps 62:8 Pr 3:5; Matt 22:37; Jude 1:21; 1 Cor 10:31; Rom 11:36)
- 2) use my Spirit-enabled gifts to build others up to humble and joyful faith in Jesus, in joy and sorrow
(Rom 15:1-6; Eph 4:1-16; 1 Pet 4:10-11; Gal 5:13; 1 Cor 12:26)
- 3) participate together in making disciples with my corresponding gift from the Spirit,
(Matt 28:18-20; 1 Pet 4:10-11; 2 Tim 4:1-6; Isa 2:2-5; Eph 3:8-10)
- 4) pray collectively with eagerness,
(1 Thess 5:17; Luke 18:1-8; Eph 6:10-20; Col 4:2-4; Phil 4:6; 1 Chr 16:11)
- 5) love one another by speaking the truth with warm affection
(John 13:34-35; 15:12-17; Rom 12:10; 13:8; Eph 4:1-3, 25; 1 Thess 3:11-13)
- 6) pursue holiness together according to God’s revealed Word and consistent with the grace by which I have been saved
(1 Pet 1:14-16; 2:9-12; Eph 1:4; 5:27; Heb 12:10-14; 1 Thess 4:1-8)
- 7) humbly hold each other mutually accountable to the faith which we proclaim and to subject myself to the Lord whom we serve
(1 Thess 5:11-13; 1 Cor 15:15-16; Eph 5:18-21; James 5:16; Rom 16:17; 2 Thess 3:6)

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