

**Faith Christian Fellowship  
Sunday, February 14, 2016  
Members of One Another  
3: What is Our Covenant?**

**Text:** Romans 12:4-5 / 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

God wants us to have a covenant, family relationship with a local church Body. We need to be connected to other believers. 3 aspects of what it means to be a member of FCFT. Today we continue with What does it mean to be a church member?

Let's look at the story of the first members: Acts 2:42-47

- 1) Understanding church is a family – 1 Tim 3:15 / Eph 3:5 / 2:19.
  - a) Last week we looked at church as a family. This week we look at church membership as a covenant.
- 2) Understanding covenant - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
  - a) The same loaf – one Body in God 1 Corinthians 12:27
  - b) The cup of blessing – intermingled life, Lev 17:11
    - i) An exchange of names, of clothing, of tokens, of weapons.
    - ii) An exchange of vows – the terms of the covenant
  - c) If entry to the Church comes by relationship with God, growth in the Church comes by relationship with other Christians. The commandment Jn 13:34-35. This kind of love is based on covenant, not feelings.

**Question:** What does the phrase, "Christian love is a commitment based on a decision" mean to you?

- 3) Understanding what is in our loaf: The FCFT covenant
  - a) Commitments of the pastoral ministry
    - i) We will provide quality spiritual food. Acts 20:28 / 1 Tim 4:1-4.

**Question:** Why is the teaching of the Word such a high priority?

- ii) We will strive to create an atmosphere (culture) of healing, growth, and worship. Acts 4:32-34
- iii) We will make provision for mentoring, counseling, and support during times of family and personal transitions. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 / Rom 12:15
- iv) We will make certain that members receive priority in materials, opportunities, ministry, and facilities. Heb 13:16 / 6:10-11 / Gal 6:10
- v) We will have you in our heart. You will be prayed for and loved. Phi 1:3-11; Rom 1:9; Eph 1:14-23; 1 Th 1:2
- vi) We will value your gifts, your office, and your point of view. 1 Corinthians 12:23-24. / 1 Pet 4:10

vii) We will stand up for you and stand with you. I am on your side, right or wrong. 1 Peter 5:2-3. / John 10:11-14

- b) Commitments of a member
  - i) A member is in agreement with the statement of faith and the purpose of the church. Matt 18:19 / 1 Cor 1:10
  - ii) A member attends services and church events regularly. We assemble to be taught and encouraged, and to release our gifts: Heb 10:24-25 / Acts 2:46 / 1 Cor 14:26.

**Questions:** What steps can you take to make the gathering of the church better and more effective?

iii) A member prays for the church and its leadership on a regular basis. This is the basis of governing the church 1 Tim 2:1-2 / Col 4:2-4 / Eph 6:18

**Questions:** How can you pray for the leadership of your church? Pray that prayer right now! Pray it again tomorrow, and tomorrow, and.....

iv) A member supports the church financially. Tithes and offerings are the plan of God for the support of the ministry. Mal 3:10 / 2 Cor 9:6-11 / 1 Cor 9:7-11 / Rom 15:27

**Questions:** What things hinder you from keeping your financial responsibility to your local church? What steps are you willing to take to change them?

v) A member serves in some capacity in the Body. Each has a valuable role to play. 1 Pet 4:10 / 1 Cor 12: 20-26

**Questions:** What gifts and abilities has God given you? If you don't know, ask someone! How are you using those gifts to serve your brothers and sisters in the local church? How are you using those gifts to further the Kingdom of God? Eph 4:11-16

vi) A member of consciously and publicly submits himself to the pastoral ministry of the church to watch for his soul. Heb 13:17 / 1 Tim 5:17 / Phil 2:12-16

vii) A member is in covenant relationship with the leadership and the other members. He does all in his ability to avoid strife, discord, murmuring, and evil-speaking. 1 Timothy 5:19-20 / Galatians 5:14-15. 1 Thess 5:12-13 / Phil 2:14-16

**Questions:** What are some of the dangers of division in the Church? What are you willing to do to prevent this spiritual tragedy? Phil 2:14-16 / 1 Timothy 5:19-20 / Romans 16:17-18 / Jude 1:16-21

**"The bible knows nothing of solitary religion."**

John Wesley

