



Seeing What We
believe

Mark 12:24, Jn. 4:22

Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them,
Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Jn. 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: **we know what we worship:** for salvation is of the Jews.

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

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NAME AND PURPOSE

ARTICLE 2

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.02—AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.03—COVENANT

I. MEMBERSHIP AFTER CONVERSION

A. The Motive for Membership – **“Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God...”**

B. The Method for Membership

1. Salvation – **“...to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith...”**

2. Scriptural Baptism – **“...having been baptized in the name of our Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...”**

3. Spiritual Submission – **“...we do now, in the presence of God-and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.”**

II. MEMBERSHIP WITH COMMITMENT

- A. The Pursuit of Perfection – **“We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love;”**
- B. The Privilege of Power – **“To strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort;”**
- C. The Promotion of Progress – **“...to promote its prosperity and spirituality;”**
- D. The Prudence of Purity – **“...to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines;”**
- E. The Preeminence of the Provisions – **“...to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.”**

Tonight, we continue looking at our church covenant. When joining our church, we enter into a solemn, mutual agreement to act together in harmony with the precepts of the Word of God.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the truth of God's Word; to seek the salvation of our families, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid backbiting, excessive anger, and all gossip or secretive meetings regarding personal issues of church members, church leadership or practice;

to abstain from such worldly amusements as watching ungodly movies, gambling, rock music, and dancing; to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; to abstain from the abuse of drugs and the sale or use of pornography, intoxicating drink or tobacco in any form; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

III. MEMBERSHIP WITH CONVICTION

Membership after conversion should lead to membership with commitment. True commitment should lead to membership with conviction.

Conviction is defined as “a fixed or firm belief” -

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/conviction>

Tonight's section of our Church Covenant is a reflection of how conviction should look for a members of our church.

A. Conviction Regarding Spirituality

“We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the truth of God's Word; to seek the salvation of our families, acquaintances, and all others...”

- For the church member, development of spirituality begins in the home.

Deut. 6:4 Hear, O Israel: **The LORD our God *is* one LORD:**

5 And thou shalt **love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.**

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be **in thine heart:**

7 And **thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children**, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

- The personal relationship with the Lord must be cultivated by an ever-deepening love for Him.
- Such love is a conviction of ALL the heart, soul, and might, remaining active “in thine heart.”

- Such a conviction must be taught “diligently unto thy children.”
- Such teaching must be continual = all the time, everywhere – “...when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”
- The conviction is noticeable everywhere – “...hand...eyes...posts...gates.”

- The spiritual education of our children begins at home and continues via Sunday School, Junior Church, AWANA, youth group, camp, Christian school, home school, etc.
- Church members with conviction are concerned with the salvation of family members, friends, acquaintances, co-workers, and all others.

B. Conviction Regarding Sanctification

“...to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid backbiting, excessive anger, and all gossip or secretive meetings regarding personal issues of church members, church leadership or practice...”

- Sanctification begins at salvation and continues to intensify as a believer grows in grace in correlation with the Word of God,

Jn. 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 **That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,**

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

- Such sanctification is effective in the way believers live their lives, whether in business relationships or in regard to relationships with other church members.

Psa. 15:1 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?
who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh
righteousness, and **speaketh the truth in his heart.**

3 **He that backbiteth not with his tongue,** nor
doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a
reproach against his neighbour.

2 Tim. 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from
these, **he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified,
and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto
every good work.**

1 Thess. 4:3 For **this is the will of God, even your sanctification**, that ye should abstain from fornication:

4 That **every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification** and honour;

5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

6 That no *man* go beyond and defraud his brother in *any* matter: because that the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

7 For **God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.**

8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

C. Conviction Regarding Separation

“...to abstain from such worldly amusements as watching ungodly movies, gambling, rock music, and dancing; to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; to abstain from the abuse of drugs and the sale or use of pornography, intoxicating drink or tobacco in any form; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.”

- A believer's life should identify with the Lord Jesus Christ, not the world → **“...to abstain from such worldly amusements as watching ungodly movies, gambling, rock music, and dancing...”**
- The believer is “transformed...a new creature” and saved “out of the world;”

Jn. 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness**, but shall have the light of life.

Jn. 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: **not as the world giveth**, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Jn. 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.

19 **If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.**

Jn. 17:14 I have given them thy word; and **the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ...**

16 **They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.**

1 Jn. 2:15 **Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Jas. 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, **that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.**

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, **know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us **lusteth to envy?**

- Worldliness in the life of a believer is evidence of compromise and lust.

Gal. 5:16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, **and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

17 For **the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh:** and these are contrary the one to the other: **so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

19 Now **the works of the flesh are manifest**, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

- Opposite of worldliness is a spirit-filled life which exhibits fruit reflecting Christ:

Gal. 5:22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And **they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**

Conclusion

1 Jn. 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Church members should live like Christ, not the world – “...come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord.”

1 Pet. 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts**, which war against the soul;

12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, **they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.**