



Seeing What We believe

1 Cor. 14:33, 40

1 Cor. 14:33 For **God is not *the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. ...***

40 **Let all things be done decently and in order.**

❖ When church members believe and practice the same doctrine, unity prevails.

Psa. 133:1 **Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!***

Eph. 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

13 Till we all come in **the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS
ARTICLE 1
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

ARTICLE 3
MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.01—QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Six Reasons to Be a Faithful Member of a Local Church
Posted on September 19, 2011 by Paul Tautges

1. You follow the pattern set forth in the New Testament.
2. You have a greater opportunity to use your spiritual gifts.
3. You become a more committed part of a spiritual family.
4. You ensure a balanced Christian life.
5. You avail yourself of the wisdom of a multitude of counselors.
6. You experience the joy of serving others.

Tonight, we continue looking at “ARTICLE 3” of our Constitution and By-laws:

SECTION 3.02—DUTIES OF A MEMBER

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant contained in Section 2.03, each member further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the pastor; to pray for him; to recognize his authority in the spiritual and day-to-day affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands, to support through a lifestyle walk affirming the beliefs and practices of the church.

8 Responsibilities of Church Members

Joining a church is not only about what you will gain. As in any relationship, church membership also brings with it a number of important responsibilities and expectations. This list is not exhaustive, but here are 8 important responsibilities that church members have:

Attend Regularly

The expectation is not that church members will never miss a Sunday or that they will be a part of every single church function. However, it should be expected that members will prioritize corporate worship with their church family (Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:42).

Heb. 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Pray Consistently

It is essential that the church be united in prayer, seeking God's blessing on the work of the church and the Gospel's impact in your congregation, your community, and beyond.

1 Thess. 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Rom. 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Col. 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Live Communally

There are many ways to develop relationships with others in the church. Whether you are involved in a ministry team, small group, Bible study, or other group we are called to develop close relationships with others so that you may encourage one another, pray for one another, build one another up, and hold one another accountable as followers of Christ. Don't run the Christian race alone!

1 Cor. 12:14 For the body is **not one member, but many.**

18 But now hath **God set the members** every one of them in the body, **as it hath pleased him.**

20 But now *are they* **many members, yet but one body.**

25 That **there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another.**

26 And whether **one member suffer, all the members suffer** with it; or **one member be honoured, all the members rejoice** with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Submit Humbly

Church members are called to submit to the church's leadership and teaching.

Heb. 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

Does this mean that we give blind allegiance even when pastors and elders fail to lead and teach biblically? Of course not. What it does mean is that we are called to support, pray for, and adhere to the spiritual authority of those appointed to positions of church leadership.

Preserve Unity

Jesus said “By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:35). All believers are tasked with preserving the peace and unity of the body, overlooking offenses when appropriate (Proverbs 19:11), bearing with and forgiving one another (Colossians 3:12-14), and pursue biblical and God-honoring peacemaking when conflicts arise. Quarrelling, gossip, and divisiveness should not mark the life of the believer.

Jn. 13:35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Prov. 19:11 The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and *it is* his glory to pass over a transgression.

Col. 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*. 14 And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Psa. 133:1 **Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!**

Eph. 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

13 Till we all come in **the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Give Generously

Our love for the Lord should manifest itself in every area of our lives, including how we make use of the finances He has entrusted to us. Members are to contribute, as the Lord directs, to the financial support of the church and its ministries.

1 Cor. 16:2 Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

2 Cor. 9:7 Every man according **as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give**; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for **God loveth a cheerful giver.**

Serve Faithfully

Each of us has been given the ability and the command to serve the Lord in some capacity. Members should eagerly find a place where they can serve and make use of their spiritual gifts for the good of others.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*

Eph. 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Pursue Holiness

The life of the Christian should be marked by an increase in Christlikeness and victory over sin. While we will never be free from sin on this side of eternity, we are called to fight sin and pursue Christ wholeheartedly in this life (Romans 12:2). Regular Bible reading, prayer, and worship should be made an ultimate priority.

<https://reasonabletheology.org/8-responsibilities-of-church-members/>

Rom. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Conclusion

Psa. 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; **worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

Eph. 4:24 And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and **true holiness.**

1 Thess. 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, **but unto holiness.**

Heb. 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and **holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:**