

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28314



As a bond of unity among us, Berean Baptist Church¹ accepts for its members² the following covenant:³

I. Having been led by the Holy Spirit⁴ to receive the Lord Jesus Christ⁵ as our Savior⁶, and upon our profession⁷ of our faith⁸ in Him, having been baptized⁹ in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now solemnly and joyfully¹⁰ enter into this covenant¹¹ with one another¹² as one body in Christ.¹³

II. We fully realize that the strength¹⁴ to uphold this covenant comes from the grace¹⁵ of God our Father¹⁶, the shed blood¹⁷ of God the Son, and the power¹⁸ of the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit.¹⁹

III. We promise²⁰ to actively pursue personal holiness;²¹ to walk²² together in Christian love;²³ to strive for the advancement of this church's spiritual growth²⁴ and unity;²⁵ to faithfully abide by the doctrines and behaviors²⁶ outlined in this church's Articles of Faith;²⁷ and to give cheerfully²⁸ of our time²⁹, talents³⁰, and finances³¹ for the support³² of this ministry and its missionaries.³³

IV. We further promise to faithfully attend the church's worship services,³⁴ to maintain personal spiritual disciplines;³⁵ to teach our children the Word of God;³⁶ to share the gospel³⁷ with our kindred and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings,³⁸ faithful³⁹ in our engagements; and to avoid all gossip.⁴⁰ We promise that we will love⁴¹ and pray for each other⁴² and in times of distress help one another.⁴³

V. We promise to endeavor to obey⁴⁴ the commandments⁴⁵ of our Lord Jesus and to abstain⁴⁶ from anything that would cause our fellow brother or sister in Christ to stumble⁴⁷ or that will bring reproach⁴⁸ to the name of Jesus Christ.

VI. We further realize that if we should fail to live up to the promises we have made, our brothers and sisters in Christ⁴⁹ will always strive for our reconciliation and spiritual restoration.⁵⁰ However, if we partake in a sustained and unrepentant violation of an Article of Faith, we will be brought under church discipline⁵¹ in accordance with the Church Constitution.⁵²

VII. We make this covenant⁵³ with each other for the express purpose of glorifying⁵⁴ God as the visible representation⁵⁵ of the body of Christ.⁵⁶

Notes:

¹ BBC is a fundamental Baptist church unaffiliated with any denomination or convention; reference BBC Constitution, Article II.

² Article V, paragraph 2 of our church constitution mandates that every member of the church is expected to live by this covenant and "love, honor, and esteem the Pastors, to pray for them and to recognize their authority in the spiritual 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 life-style affirming the beliefs and practices of the Church."

³ The purpose of this covenant is to summarize how disciples of Christ shall agree to live one with another as members of BBC according to the Bible, which is our supreme and final authority in matters of faith and life.

⁴ 1 Cor. 2:14; John 16:8-11; reference Article of Faith 10

⁵ Reference Article of Faith 3; John 1; Phil 2:5-8

⁶ Luke 2:11; reference Articles of Faith 4-6

⁷ Hebrews 4:14; Matthew 10:32

⁸ Acts 20:21, Ephesians 2:8-9

⁹ Matthew 28:19; BBC rejects any form of baptism except believer's baptism by immersion; reference Article of Faith 18

¹⁰ Nehemiah 8:10

¹¹ A covenant is a formal and binding agreement between two or more parties.

¹² It is imperative that only born-again, baptized believers become members of BBC.

¹³ 1 Corinthians 12:26-28

¹⁴ Luke 10:37

¹⁵ 1 Corinthians 15:10; a person must be in a new covenant relationship with God in order to partake of the grace God provides to live according to the expectations presented in the covenant.

¹⁶ Exodus 3:14; Romans 8:15; Gal. 4:6

¹⁷ Hebrews 9:22; Matthew 26:28

¹⁸ 1 John 4:4; Acts 1:8

¹⁹ Romans 8:9; reference Article of Faith 12

²⁰ The word "promise" communicates a good faith effort toward doing or refraining from doing that which is specified in the covenant according to the grace of God; 2 Cor. 9:8.

²¹ 1 Thess. 4:7; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Pet. 1:15-16

²² 1 Thess. 2:12; Col 1:10; 3 John 4

²³ John 13:35; when an issue arises that would interfere with two members walking together in Christian love, Matthew 18:15-17 outlines what both members are expected to do.

²⁴ 2 Peter 3:18

²⁵ Proverbs 6:16-19; John 17

²⁶ Our behavior as a Christian must be holy; Articles of Faith numbers 19, 20, 21, and 23 provide much more detail concerning behavior which is unacceptable and could result in termination of church membership.

²⁷ All the Articles of Faith are available for download using Adobe Acrobat reader @ www.bbcfn.org.

²⁸ 2 Cor. 9:7

²⁹ BBC cannot glorify God and minister to hundreds upon hundreds of people without volunteers who graciously give of their time at no expense to the ministry for the Kingdom of God. Every member is expected, in as much as they can, to serve in one or more ministries; reference Article of Faith 14.

³⁰ Romans 12:3-8; reference Article of Faith 11

³¹ 1 Cor. 16:2; every member of BBC is expected to give financially toward the needs of the ministry as God has prospered them (see Article V. paragraph 2); BBC completely relies upon the membership to provide for the needs of the ministry; reference Article of Faith 24.

³² Each and every person in order to become or serve as the Pastor, a member of the pastoral staff, a deacon, trustee, teacher, or leader of a ministry in this church must support the ministry financially according to the BBC Constitution, Article III, Article of Faith 24.

³³ Acts 1:8; no less than 10 percent of the church budget is dedicated to supporting missionaries all over the world; reference BBC Constitution Article XVI.

³⁴ Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:25; All members are expected to faithfully attend the Sunday morning worship/preaching unless they are providentially hindered or serving the ministry in another location; members are highly encouraged to grow in the Lord through their participation in other services BBC offers.

³⁵ Spiritual disciples such as: prayer, meditation and study on God's Word, fasting, service, submission one to another and worship must be practiced by Christians.

³⁶ Deut 6:4-7

³⁷ Reference Articles of Faith 14 and 22

³⁸ Romans 13:8

³⁹ 1 Cor. 4:2; Prov 28:20

⁴⁰ Romans 1:29

⁴¹ John 13:35

⁴² James 5:16

⁴³ Romans 12:10

⁴⁴ 1 Sam 15:22

⁴⁵ Mark 12:28-31

⁴⁶ Any church member who serves as an employee or in a volunteer leadership position must agree to abstain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs and other expectations further outlined in another document.

⁴⁷ 1 Cor. 8:8-9; reference Article of Faith 14.

⁴⁸ Every member of BBC must conduct themselves in such a manner as to not bring any cause or occasion of blame, discredit, or disgrace to our Lord Jesus Christ or His church.

⁴⁹ Romans 16:1, 17

⁵⁰ Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1

⁵¹ Reference the church Constitution V., sub-paragraph 4.

⁵² The procedures outlined in the church constitution are based on Matthew 18. A downloadable copy of the church constitution is available at www.bbcfnc.org under the Welcome Tab.

⁵³ A church covenant is a series of written pledges based on the Bible which church members voluntarily make to God and to one another regarding their basic moral and spiritual commitments and the practice of their faith (Charles DeWeese).

⁵⁴ 1 Cor. 10:31

⁵⁶ 1 Cor. 12:27; BBC must be the body of Christ that Fayetteville sees and, in seeing, desires to know more of its Head and King—Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior (Matt 5:16).