

## Week 6: The Church Covenant of Iglesia bautista La fe en Cristo

Now that we have considered the doctrine, organization and the members' participation in a faithful church, we want to summarize these truths in a membership covenant, a document that expresses our commitment to walk together with Jesus. The first part of a church covenant normally refers to the most basic requirement of church membership: trust in Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior. Read Matthew 28:18-20. What does Jesus declare about Himself in Matthew 28:18?

Therefore, what will all do to Jesus and what will they declare in Philippians 2:9-11?

And therefore, what will we do according to the first part of Matthew 28:19?

Notice that the Lord commands us to make disciples. In the second part of Matthew 28:19 and the first part of 28:20, how are disciples of Jesus Christ identified?

What does Jesus say about His true disciples in John 8:31?

And what will happen to them according to John 8:32?

In John 8:33, we see that the Jews were offended by His words. But in what did Jesus insist in John 8:34?

What does Jesus observe about physical and spiritual slavery in John 8:35-36?

Freedom from the slavery of sin and from God's condemnation of sin is **salvation**. How does this salvation happen according to Ephesians 2:8-9?

And how does this salvation show up in our daily living according to Ephesians 2:10?

(Personal) Do you fulfill the requirements of a disciple of Jesus described in Matthew 28:18-20; John 8:31-36 and Ephesians 2:8-10?

The second part of a church membership covenant (which in ours is four paragraphs) describes the relationships among us. Read Ephesians 4:1-3. What characteristics should describe the relationships among everyone in our church?

As we attempt to live this way by God's Spirit and being sinners, disagreements, offenses and sins will arise from time to time as we relate to one another. What do we do in those cases according to Matthew 18:15-22 and Galatians 5:22-23 y 6:1?

According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 4:3, to what do we submit always?

What other characteristics stand out in the relationships among church members in Romans 12:15; Galatians 6:2; and Philippians 2:3?

The third part of a church membership covenant covers the relationships among church members, their children and others in the world, speaking directly of the example they give. According to Ephesians 2:10 and 1 Peter 2:11-17, what should characterize the relationships Christians have with others?

Read 1 Pedro 3:15, too. What is another aspect of our relationships with people outside the church?

And according to Ephesians 6:4, what should characterize the raising of our children?

The fourth part of a church membership covenant normally outlines the commitment of all members to meet regularly. It recognizes the importance of walking in an intimate relationship with the Lord not only individually but together as a church. According to Hebrews 10:23-25, how is this commitment shown in a church?

Normally a church membership covenant ends with a fifth part, a blessing to all the members. What did Paul say in blessing the Corinthian church in 2 Corinthians 13:14?

(Personal) Read the church membership covenant with this lesson and review its five parts. Do you want to walk in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ in this way in the Iglesia bautista La fe en Cristo? Is there anything that prohibits you from doing so?

## THE COVENANT OF LA IGLESIA BAUTISTA LA FE EN CRISTO

As God has saved us by grace through faith in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>1</sup> and as we have professed our personal faith in Him by having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>2</sup> we all now, in solemnity, joy and with the help of God, join together in the following covenant:

We will work together to continue the faithful and constant ministry of evangelism in this church by supporting its services, its ordinances, its discipleship, its discipline and its doctrines. We promise to contribute joyfully and regularly for the ministry of this church, for its expenses, for the relief of the needy and for the proclamation of the gospel among all the nations.

With humility and meekness, we will minister to one another patiently and in love. We will work and pray together diligently to maintain the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.<sup>3</sup>

We promise to exhort, reprove and encourage one another in all patience and meekness as needed and in agreement with God's word, always seeking restoration in love.<sup>4</sup>

Following the example of Jesus Christ, in humility each one of us will esteem the other as more important than him or herself.<sup>5</sup> We will rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn, and together we wish to carry one another's burdens.<sup>6</sup>

We promise, with God's help, to maintain a good and holy lifestyle among those who do not know Jesus Christ by abstaining from the lusts of the flesh that battle against the soul, by walking in good works and by submitting ourselves to human institutions for the Lord's sake.<sup>7</sup>

We promise to raise those who are under our direction in the discipline and instruction of the Lord,<sup>8</sup> and with God's help to be prepared always to present a defense gently and reverently before all who demand the reason for the hope that is within us.<sup>9</sup>

We will not neglect meeting together, but instead we will exhort one another and pray regularly one for another.<sup>10</sup> We promise that on moving far from the church, we will not stop meeting but will join another church as soon as possible to continue living in agreement with this covenant and everything that our Lord has commanded.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 2:8; Romans 1:3

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 28:19

<sup>3</sup> Ephesians 4:2-3

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 18:15-22; Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 4:2

<sup>5</sup> Philippians 2:3

<sup>6</sup> Romans 12:15; Galatians 6:2

<sup>7</sup> Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 2:11-13

<sup>8</sup> Ephesians 6:4

<sup>9</sup> 1 Peter 3:15

<sup>10</sup> Hebrews 10:25

<sup>11</sup> 2 Corinthians 13:14