

Three Strands Church – Membership Covenant

The Three Strands Membership Covenant is an agreement between you and every other member of Three Strands Church. When you sign the Membership Covenant, you are inviting every member of Three Strands Church to treat you the way God instructs all members of His church to treat one another. You are also covenanting to treat them in this same way. This is an amazing adventure that God promises to use as a conduit to deliver a truly abundant life to you.

Our Membership Covenant can be broken down into five areas of agreement. We ask you to examine each area and prayerfully consider the great responsibilities and amazing blessings that come from uniting with other whole-hearted followers of Jesus Christ at Three Strands Church.

Three Strands Core Beliefs:

While we believe many things from God's Word, these are the 6 essential core beliefs that must be agreed upon by every member of Three Strands Church. By signing the *Three Strands Membership Covenant*, you are confessing that you also hold these doctrines as core convictions (or non-negotiable beliefs).

- There is one God, who is perfect, existing eternally and equally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 5:8; Matthew 28:19; Isaiah 44:6*)
- Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He lived a perfect life, died on the cross to pay the punishment for the sins of humanity, rose from the dead, and stands alone as the one and only source of eternal salvation. (*Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 1:34-38; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 2:9*)
- The Bible is the completed revelation of God's will for the salvation of men and the glory of His own name. (*Exodus 24:4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Matthew 5:17-18*)
- Sin is violating God's law and rebellion against God. All people (Christ excluded) are guilty of sin and all sin carries with it the consequence of death (physical and spiritual). (*Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9*)
- Salvation from the punishment for sin is available to all people. It has been provided through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all humanity; and those who repent and believe in Him as Lord receive this gift. (*John 3:16; Hebrews 9:11-28; Acts 16:31; 1 Peter 3:18*)
- If a person has truly repented and believed in God's plan for salvation, he/she will never lose that salvation. (*John 10:27-29; Romans 4:4-8; Romans 5:8-11; 1 John 5:10-13*)

Biblical Distinctiveness:

While the doctrines expressed in the *Three Strands Core Beliefs* are recognized to be universal and primary within the fundamental Church of Jesus Christ, there are a number of secondary beliefs that we are passionate to proclaim. Not all Christians hold these beliefs, but they are nonetheless important and true as we understand the Scriptures. Complete agreement with the *Three Strands Doctrinal Statement* and the *Three Strands Constitution/Bylaws* is not required for the sake of membership, but it should be known that we will preach, teach and counsel in accordance with these convictions.

These distinctives represent five areas of doctrine and practice:

- Divine sovereignty
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The complementary roles of men and women
- Baptism by immersion
- End Times

I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace; I will adhere to the *Three Strands Core Beliefs* and I will not be divisive over the other theological distinctives.

Membership Responsibilities:

As a Christian, we are to pray for and pursue both individual holiness and corporate health. As such, following Jesus Christ with your whole heart includes certain responsibilities to your local church. Those responsibilities are comprehensively, though not exhaustively, outlined below. Following these responsibilities, set forth by Jesus and His

Three Strands Church – Membership Covenant

apostles, not only demonstrates your allegiance to the one true God, but also brings great individual, corporate, and communal rewards with it.

I understand that God has assigned responsibilities for every Church member and that those responsibilities, when lived out by every member, create a healthy, blessed, and growing Church. In signing the *Three Strands Membership Covenant*, I am willingly covenanting to:

➤ PARTICIPATE IN REGULAR CORPORATE WORSHIP WITH THE 3SC COMMUNITY –

(1) Remember the Lord in Communion – *Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30* (2) Sing – *Colossians 3:16* (3) Pray – *Ephesians 6:18* (4) Learn the Apostles Teachings – *Acts 2:42; Ephesians 2:19-20* (5) Use Your Spiritual Gift(s) to Build Up the Body of Christ – *1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-16* (6) Give Financially – *2 Corinthians 9:5-10* (7) Strive for Unity – *Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 2:1-3; 1 Corinthians 1:10* (8) Attend Worship Services – *Heb. 10:25*

➤ ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WITHIN THE CHURCH –

(1) Seek Christian Accountability – *James 5:16; Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12* (2) Give Encouragement – *1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:23-25* (3) Pray for Each Other – *James 5:16; Colossians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18* (4) Confess Your Faults/Sins to Other Christ-followers – *James 5:16; Proverbs 28:13* (5) Submit to Church Discipline – *Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13* (6) Gently Restore Fellow Believers Who Are Overtaken by Sin – *Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20* (7) Follow the Apostles Teachings – *Acts 2:42; Ephesians 2:19-20*

➤ PURSUE MISSIONAL SERVICE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST –

(1) Preach the Gospel – *Mark 16:15; 1 Peter 3:15* (2) Make Disciples – *Matthew 28:19; 2 Timothy 2:2* (3) Serve Those Inside and Outside the Church – *Galatians 5:13-14; 6:10* (4) Humbly Live a Life of Sacrifice – *Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 5:5-6* (5) Follow the Apostles Teachings – *Acts 2:42; Ephesians 2:19-20*

Membership Rewards:

The rewards of Church Membership are practically innumerable. In every area of life, God promises blessing if we will simply obey His perfect plan (*Ephesians 4:1-6 & 11-16*). God has designed you to live in community... and not just any community. He has specifically designed you to flourish within His community (the Church).

Through God's Church your gifts/abilities are able to reach their full potential (*1 Peter 4:10-11*); your money will make the greatest impact (*Luke 6:38*); your heart will experience the most encouragement (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*); your mind will be stretched the furthest with knowledge (*Hebrews 5:11-14*); your decisions will be the wisest because you are surrounded with many trustworthy advisors (*Proverbs 15:22*). This list could go on and on forever. But with obedience to God's plan, comes immeasurable blessing and peace (*Luke 5:1-11*).

Perhaps the best way to sum up the rewards of real Church Membership is this: YOU ARE NOT ALONE. You are most connected to God when you are obeying His will and embracing His Church. God has made you with needs that can only be met by other people who love Him. He has also made you gifted in ways that are vital to meet the needs of others. All of these needs are met and all of these rewards are available when you become an active member of God's Church.

Three Strands Constitution & Bylaws:

By signing this agreement, I am covenanting to submit to God's instructions for the local church as detailed within the *Three Strands Constitution & Bylaws*. I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace within the church. I will not be divisive over areas of personal disagreement with the *Three Strands Constitution & Bylaws*, but will instead trust the leadership God has placed in my life.

I furthermore, believe that God has a wonderful plan for my life and that plan can only be fully realized within the context of my submission to His will, which includes biblical participation in a local church. I am ready to begin experiencing the abundant Christian life God has promised me by joining and covenanting with *Three Strands Church*.

Signature

Date