

# - SUMMER BIBLE STUDY - THE BIBLE IN THE CHURCH COVENANT

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## INTRODUCTION

- a. J. Newton Brown is the author
- b. Written in 1833, and first published in Brown's Baptist Church Manual in 1853
- c. According to church history, Brown's church covenant was originally apart of the New Hampshire Baptist Confession of Faith.
- d. The covenant is the means by which Baptist churches globally have been established (not "founded") by Christian brothers and sisters.
- e. Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord, Savior; and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

## THE CHURCH COVENANT EXPLAINED

*Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord, Savior; and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.*

### **1. Salvation and Baptism (John 1:11-12; Matthew 28:19-20)**

### **2. Duties to the Church**

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort. To promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines.

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.

- a. To walk together in Christian love (John 13:34-35)
- b. To strive for the advancement of the church and promote its prosperity and spirituality (Philippians 1:27; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 2 Peter 3:11)
- c. To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine (Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Jude 3)
- d. To give it pre-eminence in my life (Matthew 6:33)
- e. To contribute cheerfully and regularly (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:6-7)
- f. To carry my membership when I move and be active in church work wherever I live (Acts 11:19-21; 18:24-28)

### **3. Duties in Christian Living**

*We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment. To avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger. To abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.*

- a. To maintain family and secret devotions (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18; Acts 17:11)
- b. To religiously educate the children (2 Timothy 3:15; Deuteronomy 6:4-7)
- c. To seek the salvation of the lost (Acts 1:8; Matthew 4:19; Psalm 126:5-6; Proverbs 11:30)
- d. To walk circumspectly in the world, and to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary(correct) in our deportment (mannerisms) (Ephesians 5:15; Philippians 2:14-15; 1 Peter 2:11-12)
- e. To avoid gossip and excessive anger (Ephesians 4:31; 1 Peter 2:21, Colossians 3:8; James 3:1-2)
- f. To abstain from the sale or use of liquors (Ephesians 5:18; Habakkuk 2:15)
- g. To be zealous in our efforts for Christ (Titus 2:14)

#### **4. Duties to Fellow Members**

*We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech. To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.*

- a. To watch over one another in love (1Peter 1:22)
- b. To pray for one another (James 5:16)
- c. To aid in sickness and distress (Galatians 6:2; James 2:14-17)
- d. To cultivate sympathy and courtesy (1 Peter 3:8)
- e. To be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation (Ephesians 4:30-32)

*We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant, and the principles of GOD's Word.*