

Armitage Baptist Church
Membership Information Session #4
How We Will Live Our Church Covenant and Membership Expectations

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Distinctives of a Biblical Covenant

Psalm 89:30-34, "If his sons forsake My law, And do not walk in My judgments, 89:31 If they violate My statutes, And do not keep My commandments, 89:32 Then I will visit their transgression with the rod, And their iniquity with stripes. 89:33 But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, Nor deal falsely in My faithfulness. 89:34 My covenant I will not violate, Nor will I alter the utterance of My lips."

1. It is others-centered. Psalm 89:30-32
2. It is permanent. Psalm 89:33a
3. It is unconditional. Psalm 89:33b-34

B. Application to a Church Covenant

1. We join to serve. (Mark 10:45)
2. We join to stay. (1 Corinthians 16:5-9; 1 Corinthians 7:39)
3. We join to support. (Galatians 6:2)

II. CONDITIONS

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized, we, as one body in Christ, thoughtfully and joyfully acknowledge our covenant with one another in the presence of God and this assembly.

A. Must be saved and baptized

B. Must be thoughtful and joyful (membership is a blessing, not a burden) - IL of marriage covenant

III. COMMITMENTS

We commit, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to pursue the growth of this church in Scriptural knowledge and holiness, to regularly participate in the life of the church, to submit to its discipline, and to cheerfully contribute our attention, time, and resources toward the fulfillment of our mission to make and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ.

A. You pursue the growth of this church in scriptural knowledge and holiness through

1. Personal growth (2 Timothy 2:15)
2. Corporate growth (Ecclesiastes 4:9)

B. The Weekly Services Are

1. Sunday celebration services: 11:00am (1 in English and 1 in Spanish) and 6:00pm
2. Sunday morning ABF's (Adult Bible Fellowships)
3. Grow Groups – small groups that meet throughout the week.
4. Once a month Wednesday Prayer meeting and the celebration of the Lord's Supper

C. Church discipline is discipleship.

1. Synonyms for disciple - "learner, pupil, student, follower"
2. Discipline is for everyone (Hebrews 5:8)
3. Discipline for correction is necessary for:
 - a. The individual's growth
 - b. The church's testimony
 - c. The Lord's testimony

- D. Use of spiritual gifts - Ephesians 4:11-12. *Every* member is an *active* member.
1. Everyone serves, there are plenty of opportunities to serve here at Armitage.
 2. In order for the church to thrive on Sunday, there are three main areas of weekly service needed:
 - a. Nursery and Children's Ministry
 - b. Outside Welcome / Security
 - c. Inside Welcome / Ushering
 3. Other areas of service should be pursued according to your giftedness.

IV. CONVICTIONS

We commit to regard our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit, to demonstrate integrity in our example, relationships and commitments, to seek the salvation and spiritual growth of those around us.

- A. Called to *sacrifice* for the *common* good (Romans 14:21)

V. COMPASSION

We commit to minister to one another, to pray for one another, to love and care for one another, to encourage one another, to be slow to take offense and always ready for reconciliation, pursuing it without delay.

- A. *Corporate* Bible study is the tool that equips us. (Ezra 7:10)

- B. We pursue reconciliation by *practicing love*. (1 Peter 4:8)

We pray for grace and strength to keep this covenant, in letter and in spirit, to the glory of God Almighty. *Zechariah 4:6, "Then he answered and said to me, 'This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts."*