

Church Covenant (part 6)

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the public confession of our faith, having been immersed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We purpose, 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 attend its services regularly; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to give faithfully of time and talent in its activities; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

We also purpose to maintain personal and family Bible study; to train our children according to the Word of God; 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 conduct; **to avoid all gossip, backbiting and unrighteous anger; to abstain from all forms of activity which dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, cause stumbling to a fellow believer or hinder evangelism; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ, our Savior, and to give Him preeminence in all things.**

We further purpose to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return; 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 seek it without delay.

We moreover purpose that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other church of like faith and order where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. In the event there is no such church, we shall seek, with the Lord's help, to establish one.

A Closer Look (paragraph 3b)

1. The avoidance of _____ and backbiting

INPUT: What is the definition of gossip?

INPUT: What Scriptures teach against this practice?

INPUT: What should you do if someone begins to gossip to you?

2. The avoidance of unrighteous _____

- A. _____ is angry every day.
- B. _____ got angry.
- C. Believers are _____ to be angry.
- D. Good working definition: God-given _____ intended to help me _____
_____ biblically

3. Wise exercise of Christian _____

- A. If it's _____, don't do it (Romans 14:23).
- B. It is often best to voluntarily _____ your liberties in order to maximize your ministry (1 Cor. 8-10).
- C. Just because it's lawful doesn't mean it's _____ (1 Cor. 6:12).
- D. Avoid anything that could _____ you (1 Cor. 6:12).
- E. Avoid anything that could cause someone else to _____ (1 Cor. 8:9).

4. Aggressive _____ of the cause of Christ

INPUT: What are some ways we can be zealous in advancing the cause of Christ in the Peoria area?

5. _____ Christ above all else

INPUT: What book of the Bible teaches this?

INPUT: What verse?

**Putting Christ first is something in which we must be
_____ every day of our lives.**