

## Being a Covenant Member of a Local Church

### Matt. 26:28

**διαθήκη** [diatheke /dee-ath-ay-kay/] n f. 1 a disposition, arrangement, of any sort, **which one wishes to be valid**

– *This is the reason for covenants: there are things that we wish to be valid (real, trustworthy) cov•e•nant*

1. *The conditional promises made to humanity by God, as revealed in Scripture.*
2. *A solemn agreement between the members of a church to act together in harmony with the precepts of the gospel.*

*Philippians 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your **fellowship in the gospel** from the first day until now,*

### A Church Covenant

#### A. *Your church's responsibility ("respond" + "ability") to you*

1. Provide spiritual food
  - *Mal. 3:10 – "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house."*
  - Build & maintain Biblical soundness in teaching & practice
2. Provide Pastoral Care
  - Care of the church entrusted to the elders
  - Have to make your need known (i.e., James 5:14)
  - Relate to the structures the elders put in place (Body ministry, i.e., James 5:16)
3. Be faithful to the Great Commission
  - Sometimes this rubs people the wrong way; most rejoice though

#### B. *Your responsibility ("respond" + "ability") to your church*

1. Begin to care for the other members of your spiritual family
  - *"...that the members should have the same care for one another" I Cor. 12:25).*
2. Support financially
  - *Mal. 3:10 – "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house."*
  - Don't be the guy that's always letting someone else pick up the check!
3. Preserve the unity
  - Phil. 2:2-4
4. Deal with offenses or concerns Biblically
  - Matt. 18:15-17
  - We don't grow up until we "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15).

### The Negative and the Positive

*I John 1:7 - If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

*Gen. 11:6 “The people are as one...nothing they propose to do will be withheld from them!”*

*- Acts 2: day of Pentecost is a reversal of this*

*Matt 18 – two or more agree (sumphoneo) it will be done for them by My Father.*