



Connecting to Colonial's Covenant – 3  
June 14, 2015

Pastor Phelps  
John 13:34

## COMMITMENT #3 – TO KEEP THE “11TH COMMANDMENT”

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, 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.

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.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to train our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealing, 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 drink as a beverage and the non-medical use of drugs and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

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 Saviour, to secure it without delay.

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.

The members of Colonial Hills Baptist Church commit themselves to keep the “11th Commandment” (John 13:34). This is a commitment that is foundational to every other relational obligation discovered in Colonial's Covenant. Failure to keep the 11th Commandment will bring failure everywhere (I Cor.13:1-3). Keeping the 11th Commandment will require . . .

## DISCERNMENT

We are living in a very “self-centered” culture (II Tim. 3:1-2). People tend to choose the church that they attend based upon personal preference rather than \_\_\_\_\_ position. In such a religious climate, it is important that we be very discerning as we make a commitment to love biblically.

OUR LOVE IS TO BE A NEW \_\_\_\_\_ OF LOVE. In Leviticus 19:18, God's people were instructed to practice the “Golden Rule” and love their neighbors as they loved themselves. John 13:34 contains the “Platinum Rule.” Jesus commanded us to love others as \_\_\_\_\_ loved us!

- The love of Christ is an \_\_\_\_\_ love (John 13:1).
- The love of Christ is an \_\_\_\_\_ love (John 13:4).

OUR LOVE IS TO BE A \_\_\_\_\_ LOVE. While the world knows a love that is sensual (eros), and familial (philos), Christians are called to practice a love that is like our Lord's (agape).

OUR LOVE IS TO BE A \_\_\_\_\_ LOVE (John 13:35). It is not enough for our services to be “warm and friendly,” our lives must be filled with “works of fellowship” (James 1:27).

## DEVELOPMENT

Because biblical love is an action, not just an atmosphere, it is something that can be developed.

WE ARE TAUGHT BY THE EXAMPLE OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ (I Thes. 4:9-10). God demonstrated His love toward the unworthy and the unlovely (Rom. 5:8; I John 4:10) and so should we!

WE ARE TAUGHT BY THE EXAMPLE OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 3:16). There is no higher example of biblical love to be discovered than that of our Lord and Savior.

WE ARE TAUGHT BY THE EXAMPLE OF OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 10:24-25). There is no finer laboratory for the believer to practice biblical love than in the local church!

## DEMONSTRATION

The love that the Lord requires is a demonstrable or active love. When the lost see the genuine love of the followers of Christ, they will know that we are His disciples.

A DEMONSTRATION OF OUR \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:42).

A DEMONSTRATION OF OUR \_\_\_\_\_.