



Connecting to Colonial's Covenant – 3
June 21, 2015

Pastor Phelps
John 13:34

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.

COMMITMENT #4 - TO MOVE THE CHURCH FORWARD!

Americans are becoming increasingly irreligious. Churches are closing. Pastors are retiring. Bible colleges and seminaries are no longer thriving. Kent Hughes lamented, "Today, at the end of the twentieth century, we have a phenomenon unthinkable in any other century: churchless Christians." (The Disciplines of a Godly Man, p. 152). The members of Colonial Hills Baptist Church bind themselves by Covenant, "To strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort."

A COMMITMENT TO STRIVE

This is not a commitment to strife, it is a recognition that the Christian's relationship to church is a relationship of _____ (Acts 2:41-47).

1. The commitment of the _____ is to "doctrine and fellowship" (Acts 2:42).
2. The commitment of the _____ is to "prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4).

A COMMITMENT TO STUDY

The advancement of our church in knowledge will require a commitment of the membership to the Word of God (II Tim. 2:15).

1. There must be _____ preparation (II Tim. 4:1-2).
2. There must be continual _____ preparation (Acts 6:7).

A COMMITMENT TO SEPARATION

The Lord has clearly commanded that His people be holy (I Pet. 1:16). Though we are in the world, we are not to be _____ the world (John 17:16).

1. This commitment must be shared personally (II Cor. 6:11-14).
2. This commitment must be seized positively (II Cor. 6:17-7:1).

A COMMITMENT TO SYMPATHIZE

There is a unique and ongoing ministry of _____ within the Christian community (II Cor. 1:3-4).

1. God is the _____ of all comfort (v. 3).
2. God has prescribed a _____ for the giving of comfort (v. 4).