



Connecting to Colonial's Covenant – 7  
August 9, 2015

Pastor Phelps  
I Tim. 3:14-15

## COMMITMENT #7 SUSTAINING!

How important is the church to you? I Tim. 3:14 tells us that the church is the pillar and the ground of the \_\_\_\_\_. In 1909, Newport White wrote the following: "The church is the divinely constituted human society by which the support and maintenance in the world of revealed truth is conditioned. Truth revealed to isolated individuals, no matter how numerous, would be dissipated in the world. But the Divine Society, in which it is given an objective existence, at once compels the world to take knowledge of it, and assures those who receive the revelations that it is independent of and external to, themselves and not a mere fancy of their own!" (The Expositors Greek Testament) It is in the local church that the saints gather to be sustained by and to sustain truth!

As Colonial Hills Baptist Church celebrates nearly 60 years of God's faithfulness, it is well for us to consider carefully the covenant entered into by all those that are members of this assembly. The second paragraph of our Covenant focuses on the \_\_\_\_\_ and reads as follows:

*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, ordinance, 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.*

Having previously considered our commitment to sustain the worship of our church, let's consider 3 more sustaining responsibilities. Every member of the church is a sustainer of the church!

### SUSTAIN THE DUTIES OF THE CHURCH

Unlike many denominations that speak of sacraments (church rites through which grace is said to be administered), our Covenant teaches that those who know the blessings of grace are to be committed to the sustaining of church "ordinances." An ordinance is a symbolic act commanded by Jesus to commemorate what He did to purchase our \_\_\_\_\_. Keeping the ordinances is a matter of duty!

BELIEVER'S \_\_\_\_\_. Some consider baptism to be a "non-essential." Those who unite with Colonial Hills commit to sustain the baptism of believers (Acts 2:41; 8:37) by immersion as an essential duty.

THE LORD'S \_\_\_\_\_. Unlike baptism, which is administered one time, the Lord's Supper is to be done repeatedly (I Cor. 11:24-26). The Lord's Supper "shows the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ until He returns (I Cor. 11:26).

### SUSTAIN THE DISCIPLINE OF THE CHURCH

"Church Discipline" is to many churches a relic of a by-gone era. Sadly, there is little purity in the church of the 21st century because there is little discipline applied. The leaven of sin has come to permeate and pollute the purity of the church (I Cor. 5:1-7).

THE \_\_\_\_\_ REVEALED (Matt. 18:15-18).

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ meeting (v. 15).
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ meeting (v. 16).
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ meeting (v. 17).

THE \_\_\_\_\_ REQUIRING DISCIPLINE. Church discipline is to be entered into soberly and scripturally. In the Gospels, the church is prophesied. In the Acts, the church is produced. The Epistles present the problems that require the disciplinary work of the congregation:

1. A matter of \_\_\_\_\_ (I Cor. 5:1-7).
2. A matter of \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 2:14-15).
3. A matter of \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 2:14-15; II Thes. 3:6, 14).

Sustaining the discipline of the church will mean putting principle above personality and allowing the voice of the majority to be the voice of God's authority (II Cor. 2:6).

### SUSTAIN THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

We socialize but the church is not a social club. We treasure traditions but the church does not gather to treasure traditions. The church is a company of saints sustained by and sustaining doctrine (I Tim. 3:15).

EVERY MEMBER MUST \_\_\_\_\_ THE SCRIPTURES (Acts 17:11).

EVERY MEMBER MUST \_\_\_\_\_ THE SCRIPTURES (II Tim. 2:15).

EVERY MEMBER MUST \_\_\_\_\_ UPON THE SCRIPTURES (Is. 8:20).

*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation, by water and the word;  
From Heav'n He came and sought her, to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.*