

IV: CHURCH COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Orlinda Baptist Church's purpose, doctrine, and polity, I now want to unite with the Orlinda Baptist Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the unity of my church

- ... by acting in love toward other members
- ... by refusing to gossip, engage in slander or the stirring up of division within the church.
- ... by following its leaders

¹⁹ Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

(Rom 14:19)

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Eph 4:29)

¹⁷ Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. (Heb 13:17)

2. I will share the responsibility of my church

- ... by praying for its growth and health
- ... by inviting the unchurched to attend
- ... by warmly welcoming those who visit

¹ To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. ² We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. (1 Thes 1:1-2)

²³ Then the master told his servant, Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. (Luke 14:23)

¹⁷ Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. (Rom 15:17)

3. I will serve the ministry of my church

- ... by discovering my gifts and talents
- ... by being equipped to serve its pastors and teachers
- ... by developing a servant's heart

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Pet 4:10)

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up . . . (Eph 4:11-12)

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. (Phil 2:3-4)

4. I will support the testimony of my church

. . . by attending faithfully
. . . by living a godly life
. . . by giving regularly

²⁵ *not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb 10:25)*

²⁷ *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel . . . (Phil 1:27)*

² *On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. (1 Cor 16:2)*

³⁰ *A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. (Lev 27:30)*