

CHURCH COVENANT

God established a covenant relationship, first with His people Israel, and then a new covenant with His people, the church.¹ Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and accepting the Bible as our authoritative standard regarding our belief and behavior, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We believe we exist to glorify God by attracting and winning people to faith in Jesus Christ,² by nurturing them in our Christian family, by bringing them to Christ-like maturity,³ and by involving them in meaningful ministry.⁴

Therefore, as members of God's covenant family known as Ebenezer Baptist Church of Toccoa, GA, we commit ourselves to God and to one another to be Christ-like⁵ in our lives and relationships through the presence, guidance, and power of God's Holy Spirit.

We will love one another as Christ loved us,⁶ honor one another above ourselves,⁷ be kind and compassionate to one another,⁸ encourage and build up one another,⁹ comfort one another,¹⁰ and offer hospitality to one another.¹¹

We will have a spirit of unity based on our common bond in Christ,¹² be united in mind and convictions,¹³ meet together regularly,¹⁴ have equal concern for each other, suffer when one suffers and rejoice when another is honored,¹⁵ and let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit.¹⁶

We will use our God-given knowledge to instruct one another,¹⁷ use our spiritual gifts to bless one another,¹⁸ use the Word of Christ to teach and admonish one another,¹⁹ and nurture one another toward spiritual maturity measured by the life and ministry of Jesus.²⁰

We will not talk negatively about one another,²¹ not pass judgment on one another, not put any stumbling block in one another's way,²² we will be morally pure in our thoughts, actions and language.²³ We will be generous in our giving²⁴ and we will be filled with the Spirit.²⁵

We will confess our sins to one another, pray for each other,²⁶ warn those who are disruptive, encourage the discouraged, help the weak, be patient with one another,²⁷ forgive one another as the Lord forgave us,²⁸ and gently restore those who sin.²⁹

We will let the light of our godly lives shine together to bring glory to God.³⁰

If we move from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with a sister church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

1. Hebrews 8:7-13; 9:15
2. Matthew 28:18-20
3. Ephesians 4:14-16
4. II Corinthians 5:18
5. 1 Peter 2:21
6. John 13:34
7. Romans 12:10
8. Ephesians 4:32
9. 1 Thessalonians 5:11
10. 2 Corinthians 1:4
11. 1 Peter 4:9

12. Ephesians 4:3-6
13. 1 Corinthians 1:10
14. Hebrews 10:25
15. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26
16. Philippians 2:3
17. Romans 15:14
18. 1 Corinthians 12:7
19. Colossians 3:6
20. Ephesians 4:13
21. James 4:11
22. Romans 14:13

23. Ephesians 5:3-4
24. 2 Corinthians 9:5
25. Ephesians 5:18
26. James 5:16
27. 1 Thessalonians 5:14
28. Colossians 3:13
29. Galatians 6:1
30. Matthew 5:1

POLITY

Ebenezer Baptist Church is a sovereign, autonomous and democratic Southern Baptist Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the right of exclusive self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

This church accepts the Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of Southern Baptist churches as indicated in the *Baptist Faith and Message*, as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000. This constitutes our statement of faith.

We believe the Bible is God's instruction manual for followers of Jesus Christ, as well as leaders in His Church. It is the inspired and infallible Word of God and speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, and is the sole and final source of all that we believe. The *Baptist Faith and Message* statement does not exhaust the extent of our faith. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policies and procedures, and discipline, our Pastoral Staff, under the leadership of our Lead Pastor are the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.