

**Church Covenant Series: iPROTECT**

**January 30, 2022**



FBC MISSION: Seeking to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus who love, live, and share Him.

**Introduction:**

**3 Benefits of a church covenant:**

- It helps create a culture of \_\_\_\_\_ DNA in our faith family.
- It defines \_\_\_\_\_ on how we agree to live.
- It is a sign of \_\_\_\_\_.



**Big Idea:** Learning to \_\_\_\_\_ one another versus \_\_\_\_\_ one another is critical to the FBC covenant iPROTECT.

**FBC Covenant**

Having received the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior following my repentance of rebellion and sin and having been baptized and being in agreement with First Baptist's beliefs and core values, I now believe to be led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the First Baptist Church family. In doing so, to the best of my ability, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

**I will protect the unity of my church...**

- ...by putting the \_\_\_\_\_ of others before my personal wants (Christian love), see Romans 14:19
- ...by following biblical \_\_\_\_\_, see Hebrews 13:17

- ...by refusing to \_\_\_\_\_, see Ephesians 4:29
- ...by being \_\_\_\_\_ to take offense but \_\_\_\_\_ to reconciliation and obeying Christ's commands in Matthew 18:15-17
- ...by submitting to righteous \_\_\_\_\_ if the need should ever arise so that restoration may occur as prescribed in Galatians 6:1-5

**Connect Card/Truth into Action:**

-I will take seriously my responsibility to protect unity in my faith family.



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

## Table Talk

Warm Up: In the sermon introduction this week an illustration was given of the Athenian army and how they trained up their warriors. This statement was made, “The Athenian army could not stand against the enemy alone. The only hope for victory would come as they stood arm and arm. It was essential for them to learn how to fight for one another.”

Can you see the value of unity in a relationship and ***learning how to fight for*** one another? Discuss this with those in your group.

And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.” (Nehemiah 4:14)

1. The great leader Nehemiah called the men of Israel to action—to take on their enemies. Read Nehemiah 4:14 and describe the manner in which they were to fight?

2. What do you think is the difference between fighting *for* someone and fighting *with* someone? How does it affect the way you fight?

3. What examples have you witnessed or experienced of somebody fighting *for* you or someone else? What stands out to you about that experience? What can your group learn from that?

4. Which do you do more of ***fighting for*** one another or ***fighting with*** one another? Discuss your answers:

5. Nehemiah specifically challenged men to fight *for* others.

- How are we tempted to fight *with* or *against* those *for* whom we should be fighting?
- How does one truly fight *for* their husband/wife, children or fellow Christians?

6. What 5 tactics should we use as we defend the unity within our church? (read verse 8) What do you think each of those things means and how should they be used?

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. <sup>10</sup> For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; <sup>11</sup> let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. <sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” (1 Peter 3:8–12)

7. Work through verse 9. What is God actually expecting us to do in order to protect unity? Most people would say those instructions are foolish. (i.e. “You can’t just let somebody walk all over you!”) What is the motivation in obeying the truth in this verse?

8. Discuss the safeguards that we should be putting in place to protect unity (v. 10) What is the difference between the two actions?

9. Verse 11 tell us straight up to turn away from something and instead pursue something else. What are those things? How would you define them? What is the significance of “seeking” and “pursuing?”

10. Verse 12 provides the ultimate motivation for protecting unity. How is this motivation laid out?

11. What can you do to better protect the unity of your church, your marriage, your family, your community group?

12. Are you sabotaging the unity of any of your relationships?

**Closing Prayer:** God of peace make me more like You—a maker of peace.