

Teaching today

Membership - What is it, why does it matter, what is our foundation

Today - what binds us together? A portrait of membership.

① God is the one who truly binds a church together because it is his church.

② However, we also play a role in this... we can contribute or detract ~~to~~ what God is doing.

Covenant - promise - do promises mean anything to us? *TRUST DOWN, MANICISE UP*

We do not draw strength + inspiration from the world, but from God himself

God has made a new, perfect covenant with us, his people, through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Old Covenant

Old
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 - See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Law given, and sacrifices and rituals required for atonement.

Hebrews 10:4 - For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 7:22 - This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

Intro
Luke 22:19-20 - And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

new
John 1:9-13 - The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

If your faith is in Christ, we are members of the new covenant. This is our reality as believers in Christ.

of New Covenant

We seek to live out this reality in our church through an imperfect covenant with one another.

- As image bearers, we are to mirror a promise-keeping God, thru power of Holy Spirit
- Let yes be yes, no be no
- Jesus prayed in John 17 that we would be one as the Father is one w/son

Obligation of Anthem Church to its members

- We covenant that your elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4). *We don't make up qualifications. Not perfect, repentant*
- We covenant to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-5). *Not funds or whims*
- We covenant to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service (Ephesians 4:11-13) and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14). *We desire to see you grow. We pray for you*
- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31). *Can't just come in + set up teaching shop*
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary, engaging in the confrontation of sin alongside covenant members after attempts to reconcile and repent have been sought independently (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1). *Patience.*
- We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12). *We are not above the law*

My obligation to Anthem Church as a member

- I have read and understood the Anthem doctrinal statement (<https://anthemchurch.net/doctrine>) and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:7, 17). *If you are feeling tension, talk to us. Not mind readers*
- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). *Many laws, more freedom*
- I will maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines. My relationship with the Lord will be evident through my participation in weekly worship gatherings, communion, Anthem community, service, and a life that glorifies Jesus (Psalm 105:1-2; Psalm 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3). *For your good, for good of others /*
- I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure (Proverbs 3:9-10; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 4:1-16, 5:15-18). This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Romans 12:1-8; 2 Corinthians 8-9, 12:7-3; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

Stewardship

- I covenant to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise. I covenant to confront sin and offense primarily and firstly with my brothers and sisters in Christ before involving Anthem Church leadership, and to involve leadership only when these first biblically prescribed steps are unproductive (Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Corinthians 2:5-8; Galatians 6:1-5, 8; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 2:25; Titus 1:9, 3:10-11; Hebrews 12:5-11; Revelation 2:5-7, 14-25). *Humility to give & receive as part of body*
- I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I may live a new life (2 Corinthians 5:17). I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and fornication (Job 31:1; Proverbs 5; Romans 13:12-14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-7:16; Hebrews 13:4). I will pursue sobriety of mind and body by refraining from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible, my pastors, and my conscience dictate (1 Corinthians 8:7; Galatians 5:19-21). Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; 1 John 1:6-10).

The call is freedom, not "good" or "evil"

*We care about these things because we care about you
we all need accountability, and if we all claim Jesus
we all agreed, at least at one point, to follow him in
these ways.*

The grace of God in Christ is the way through

Make us One. He is faithful!