



COVENANT

I WILL SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

TEXT: Luke 14:15–24 (NLT)

SERIES SPOTLIGHT:

Church membership is a response to Christ's saving grace and our Church Covenant is the agreement among members to live together in that grace, helping one another follow Jesus.

INTRODUCTION:

In Luke 14, Jesus tells the parable of a great banquet. The host has prepared everything, yet many who were invited make excuses. The host doesn't cancel the banquet, he extends the invitation to those who might never have expected to receive it. This parable reveals the generosity of God's grace, the seriousness of responding to His invitation, and the extraordinary reach of His kingdom. As members of the church, we share the responsibility of making His God's invitation known and helping OTHERS discover a place in His family.

SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

Because we've received God's invitation, we share the responsibility of extending that invitation to OTHERS.

I. IN CHRIST, GOD CONTINUES TO EXTEND HIS INVITATION OF GRACE! (LUKE 14:15–17)

God's invitation originates in His generosity.

LUKE 14:15-17 NLT

Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, "What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!"

¹⁶ Jesus replied with this story: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. ¹⁷ When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.'

Consider: Before we ever became responsible for inviting OTHERS, we were recipients of God's invitation!

II. IN 2026, EXCUSES STILL KEEP PEOPLE FROM RESPONDING TO GRACE! (LUKE 14:18–20)

Good things can become obstacles when they take priority over God's invitation.

LUKE 14:18-20 NLT

But they all began making excuses. One said, 'I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.' ¹⁹ Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.' ²⁰ Another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

Consider: What priorities, distractions, or excuses might be keeping us from faithfully participating in Jesus's mission?

III. RIGHT NOW, WE EXTEND GOD'S INVITATION OF GRACE TO OTHERS! (LUKE 14:21–24)

God's invitation reaches beyond our familiar circles and calls us to participate in making it known.

LUKE 14:21-24 NLT

²¹ "The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' ²² After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' ²³ So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. ²⁴ For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.'"

Consider: There are OTHERS who have not heard the good news, OTHERS who wonder if they would be welcomed, and OTHERS who need someone to help them discover a place in a church family.

OUR COVENANT COMMITMENT: As a member of the body of Christ known as FBCG, I have covenanted with God, my fellow church family members, and the leaders to:

III. Share the Responsibility of My Church

- By praying for its growth
- By inviting the lost, unchurched, or hurting to attend
- By warmly welcoming those who visit
- By supporting and participating in the care of our facilities

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Recognizing the GRACE of God's Invitation (Luke 14:15-17)

Jesus describes a generous host who prepares a banquet and extends an invitation. What does this picture teach us about the nature of God's grace and our relationship to His kingdom? How does recognizing ourselves as recipients, rather than deserving guests, change our attitudes toward people who are different from us or who are not yet part of our church family? How should gratitude for God's invitation motivate our shared responsibility to reach and welcome OTHERS?

2. Examining Our EXCUSES and Priorities (Luke 14:18-20)

The invited guests offered excuses involving ordinary responsibilities and relationships. Why can good things become serious obstacles to responding to God? What are some modern equivalents of these excuses? How does busyness, comfort, or competing commitments prevent us from participating in our church's mission? What changes might be necessary to make sharing Christ's invitation a greater priority?

3. Extending the Invitation and Making Room for OTHERS (Luke 14:21-24)

The master directs his servant to extend the invitation beyond the original guests, reaching people who might otherwise have been overlooked. What does this reveal about God's heart for people and the reach of His grace? Does this challenge our assumptions about who might respond to the gospel or feel welcome in our church? How? Considering our Membership Covenant's commitments to prayer, invitation, hospitality, and facility stewardship, what specific actions could our Life Group and individual members take to help OTHERS hear the gospel, experience Christlike welcome, and find meaningful connection within our church family?