

The Worship and Work of Church Membership

Duties of Fellowship in the Local Church

Series Review

As recipients of mercy in the gospel (Rom 1-11), the saints gladly give themselves to the Lord in worship as a living sacrifice (Rom 12-16). This worship is guided and directed by Scripture, and the Lord has graciously ordered his household with specific responsibilities to be carried out in the local church. These “duties of fellowship” as described by John Owen are to be carried out with joy and thanksgiving for the gospel.

Coming out of the Protestant Reformation, it has been the historic practice of churches to summarize these responsibilities of church members toward one another in *church covenants*, similar to how churches summarize their doctrine in *statements of faith*. A *statement of faith* is focused on what a church believes and teaches, while a *church covenant* is focused on how a church is to love one another.

We believe that summarizing our ethical obligations toward one another in a *church covenant* would be helpful for discipleship at OBC as we share life together in the local church. For more on this, we invite you to scan the QR code and listen to past lessons in the OBC media library on our website or app.



Schedule	
Feb 26	Series Introduction: A History of Church Covenants
Mar 12	The Duties of Assembly and Identification: Worship, Baptism, and the Lord’s Table
Mar 19	The Duties of Members to Elders
Mar 26	The Duties of Members to Members
Apr 16	The Duty of Guarding Church Doctrine
Apr 23	The Duties of Guarding the Unity and Holiness of the Church
Apr 30	The Duty of Partnership in the Gospel

Projected Timeline

February—April	Sunday School
May	Present draft covenant at the members’ meeting.
June—August	Collaborative revision and discussion with church membership.
September	Ratify at the members’ meeting.

Recommended Reading

The Duties of Christian Fellowship by John Owen

Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Devoted to God’s Church: Core Values for Fellowship by Sinclair Ferguson

Caring for One Another by Ed Welch

31 Ways to Be a “One-Another” Christian: Loving Others with the Love of Jesus by Stuart Scott

The Duties of Members to Elders

What responsibilities do the members of a local church have toward the elders?

1. Know/respect and esteem highly (1 Thess 5:12-13)
2. Remember and imitate (Heb 13:7; 1 Cor 11:1; 2 Tim 1:13)
3. Obedience and submission (Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 5:5)
4. Receive equipping and do the work of ministry (Eph 4:11-16)
5. Honor/provide for them (1 Tim 5:17-18)
6. Vet candidates and ordain qualified men (1 Tim 3:1-7; 5:21-25; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet 5:1-5)
7. Protection and accountability (1 Tim 5:19-20)
8. Communicate needs to them (James 5:14)
9. All the one-another commands