

# 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

# ONE ANOTHER-ING IN THE BIBLE

## Appendix 3 of DOBC Handbook

In the New Testament, there are more than 40 ‘one another’s. These communal commands, come in a variety of contexts, with a variety of expressions, but each one expounds Jesus’ singular command to ‘love one another’ (John 13:34-35). Moreover, each ‘one another’ requires ongoing, committed membership in a local church. For how else can you fulfill the call to love one another, if you are not one of another? As you ponder these commands, may the Spirit stir you to love the brethren, the brothers and sisters in your own church, with greater zeal and patience.

- ***LOVE ONE ANOTHER*** (John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12)
- ***Live in peace with one another.*** (Mark 9:50; Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:13)
- ***Be devoted to one another in brotherly love*** (Romans 12:10)
- ***Give preference to one another*** (Romans 12:10)
- ***Be of the same mind toward one another*** (Romans 12:16; 15:5)
- ***Build up one another*** (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- ***Serve one another*** (Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10)
- ***Be kind to one another*** (Ephesians 4:32)
- ***Forgive one another*** (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13)
- ***Speak to one another with songs, hymns, and spiritual songs*** (Ephesians 5:19)
- ***Regard one another as more important than yourselves*** (Philippians 2:3; Ephesians 5:21)
- ***Be patient with one another*** (Colossians 3:12-13)
- ***Comfort one another*** (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
- ***Encourage one another*** (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13)
- ***Always seek after that which is good for one another*** (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
- ***Consider how to spur one another to love and good deeds*** (Hebrews 10:24)
- ***Confess your sins to one another*** (James 5:16)
- ***Pray for one another*** (James 5:16)
- ***Be hospitable to one another without complaint*** (1 Peter 4:9)
- ***Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another*** (1 Peter 5:5)
- ***Fellowship in the Light with one another*** (1 John 1:7)
  
- ***Do not judge one another*** (Romans 14:13)
- ***Do not fight with one another*** (Galatians 5:13; 5:26)
- ***Do not lie to one another*** (Colossians 3:9)
- ***Do not speak against one another*** (James 4:11)
- ***Do not complain against one another*** (James 5:9; 1 Peter 4:9)