



## WHAT IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

*Grace Bible Church seeks to build a community that glorifies God by developing passionate servants of Jesus Christ who attract others to him.*

### Membership in the True Church

We recognize that all true followers of Jesus Christ receive the same baptism, share the same Spirit, worship the same God of the Bible, and are members of the true Church. The true Church is distinguished by its unity, its holiness, its universality, and its commitment to the teaching of the apostles—historically described as “one, holy, universal, and apostolic” (*Nicene Creed*).

In the present age, the true Church is a spiritual reality, which is fully known only to God, and is not limited to any institution or denomination. We are waiting for Jesus Christ to return and reveal this true Church.

### Membership at Grace Bible Church

Membership at Grace Bible Church is one way in which we as a community seek to be a local expression of the universal Church and distinguished by the same things that mark the true Church.

*Unity:* Membership seeks to unify us in our beliefs, purpose, and service.

*Holiness:* Membership holds us accountable to pursue holiness.

*Apostolic Teaching:* Membership protects us from leaving or mistreating the apostolic teachings given to us in the Scriptures.

### Becoming a Member

Individuals who apply for membership shall be asked to do the following:

- Assent to our core beliefs
- Give a description of how you became a follower of Jesus Christ
- In matters of faith and practice, agree to submit to the authority of the Elders, who have been charged with protecting the spiritual health of our community
- Sign the *Membership Covenant*

## **Expectations of a Member**

As a community, we seek to spur one another on to godliness and good deeds. We, also, seek to protect one another from falling into destructive habits or unhealthy thinking. *Membership* is a commitment to be part of this work and to allow others the right to do this work in your life.

As stated in our *Membership Covenant*, membership in our community carries the following expectations:

- You will set aside time to worship God.
- You will regularly participate in our public worship of God.
- You will be faithful in worshiping God on your own.
- You will strive to live a life that honors God.
- You will submit to the leadership and discipline of the Board of Elders in matters of faith and practice.
- You will contribute to the support and work of GBC.
- You will preserve the good name of this church by consistently living out your faith.

## **Benefits of Membership**

When practiced graciously *and* taken seriously, membership should benefit you and our community.

- *You* become part of a church family that will hold you accountable to achieve a deep, growing walk with God and protect you from habits and thinking that could harm your walk and, ultimately, destroy your life
- *We* become a community that glorifies God and attracts others to Him