

**Why Covenant Membership?**

*Our Covenant Life Together  
Various Scripture Passages  
Sunday, January 31, 2010*

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**5 strands of biblical evidence that both imply and encourage the practice of covenant membership . . .**

1. The precedent of other \_\_\_\_\_ between the people of God before the Lord.
  
2. The call of the \_\_\_\_\_ commands to radically, sacrificially commit to one another in the local church.
  
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ used to describe the church imply more than a casual connectedness and commitment.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The instructions concerning \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ imply a formal connectedness and commitment.
  
5. The exhortations related to the \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ relationship imply a formal connectedness and commitment.

**Covenant::**

a \_\_\_\_\_

a \_\_\_\_\_

**Covenant Community::**

A community of \_\_\_\_\_

centered around the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

**Is "covenant membership" biblical or unbiblical?**

Not only does the Bible  
not \_\_\_\_\_ the practice of  
"covenant membership" in the local church,  
it \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ it.

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### PREPARING to be with One Another:

Use a separate sheet of paper or notebook to work through these questions in advance of your Growth Group gathering. The more people come prepared, the richer and deeper and more real our discussions will be with one another.

### CONNECTING with One Another

Open your time by checking in with one another to see how you're doing and how one another's week was. Here's one possible get to know you question . . .

*Where is one place in the world you'd love to visit?*

### EXPLORING God's Word with One Another

*Remember, we're giving you more than you can really discuss here. Pick a few questions here that will take you back into the content of the passage and message.*

1. Read Romans 12:1-10. What is the flow of thought here? What does Paul call us in verse 5?
2. What do we mean again when we use the word "covenant?" What do we mean when we speak of "covenant community." (review that outline and discuss these definitions together)
3. Read together Nehemiah 8:1-10:33. (It's long but worth it!) What is happening here? What are the people doing? How does this relate to "covenant membership?"

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4. What are the 4 New Testament metaphors used to describe the church and how do they each imply more than a casual connectedness and commitment? Which of the 4 metaphors is being used in these passages: Romans 12:4-5, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 2:18-19, I Peter 2:4-5?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 5 (not that long!) What is happening here? How does this passage imply and encourage the practice of "covenant membership"?

### APPLYING God's Word with One Another

1. What's your gut reaction to the concept of "covenant membership?" Are you for it or against it and why? Did the message do anything to sway your position?
2. Now that you've heard Pastor Tim's case from the scriptures, do you think that "covenant membership" is biblical, unbiblical or a-biblical? What is meant by each term? What are some things we do as a church that are neither biblically prescribed or prohibited?
3. What are some potential abuses that might happen with "covenant membership?" What are some potential blessings that might come with "covenant membership"?

### PRAYING for One Another

1. Quickly share personal requests.
2. Use the truth of the message as a "springboard" to pray for your personal growth and your Growth Group.