

The Covenantal Backbone
Understanding the Nature of Our Relationships
(The Covenantal Nature of Local Church Relationships)

1. The Universal and Local Church realities.

a. The Universal Church:

The universal church is the community of all true believers _____ and for all time.

b. The Local Church:

“A local church is a community of Christians who regularly gather in Christ’s name to _____ affirm and shepherd one another’s membership in Jesus Christ and His kingdom through gospel preaching and gospel _____.”

2. Are members of local churches in covenant relationships with one another?

a. This is assumed in our definition of the local church:

- i. “Officially affirm one another’s membership in Jesus Christ.”
- ii. “Officially shepherd one another’s membership in Jesus Christ.”

b. The biblical terms/imagery used to describe local church members strongly suggest this.

- i. Family: “Children of God”, “brother/sister” (too numerous)
- ii. Union: Romans 12 (v5); 1 Corinthians 12; Philippians 2:2, etc.
- iii. _____: Galatians 3:29; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Hebrews 8:10
- iv. Commitment: John 13:34; Romans 12:10; Galatians 6:10
- v. People, race, nation, body, temple, house, marriage.

c. Church practices strongly imply this.

- i. Baptism: Acts 2:41 and 47
- ii. Communion: “Covenant in blood”; 1 Corinthians 10:15-18
- iii. Discipline: Matt. 18:15-20; 2 Corinthians 2:6
- iv. _____: Acts 6:1f; 1 Timothy 5:9

d. Church relationships indicate and necessitate this.

- i. Relationships between _____ and members: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:17-22; Hebrews 13:17
- ii. Relationships between the _____ and its members: Matthew 18:17 (listen to the church); 1 Corinthians 5:4-5; 2 Corinthians 2:6.
- iii. Relationships among the members: Romans 12:10; Galatians 6:10.

3. What are some implications if our relationships are covenantal?

-
-
-
-