

# Fundamentals of Our Faith from the Beginning

## Understanding the Church:

### What are the duties of church members and leaders?

#### 1. For members:

- a. Commit to live out your identity as a Christian in all of life (Philippians 1:27).
- b. Commit to participate in the ordinary means of grace, understanding that this is the normal way the Holy Spirit works sanctification:
  - i. Participate in His Word.
  - ii. Participate in His ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper).
- c. Commit to make gathering a priority, recognizing that this is where the means of grace are most accessible to you (Hebrews 10:25).
  - i. The Word is read, sung, prayed, confessed, and preached.
  - ii. The ordinances are shared.
- d. Commit to personal devotion:
  - i. Receiving the Word through reading, study, meditation, etc.
  - ii. Taking hold of God and His promises by faith through prayer.
  - iii. By use of other means: fellowship, conferencing, fasting, solitude, singing, etc.
- e. Commit to humble and glad submission to the leaders the Lord gives you (Ephesians 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:17).
- f. Commit to the shared protection of the gospel (Galatians; 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9).
- g. Commit to pray for your church family (Romans 12:12).
- h. Commit to make connections that will be mutually edifying (Romans 1:11-12; 2 Timothy 2:22).
- i. Commit to serve your body (Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10).
- j. Commit to share...
  - i. The gospel (evangelism)
  - ii. Your resources
  - iii. Your needs
  - iv. Your self
- k. Commit to the love of your church family:
  - i. Rejoicing with them in blessing.
  - ii. Weeping with them in hardship.
  - iii. Bearing with them in weakness.
  - iv. Forgiving them in waywardness.
  - v. Believing the best about them and hoping the best for them.
  - vi. Refusing gossip and slander in favor of commendation and encouragement.
- l. Commit to the pursuit of peace and reconciliation, not allowing any offense to stand in the way of glad fellowship (Romans 14:19; 1 Peter 3:8-12, etc.).
- m. Commit to represent Christ and your church well in your community (Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

## 2. For Leaders:

[Leaders are also members and have the same duties listed above.]

- a. Commit to live out their identity as Christians in all of life in an exemplary manner, understanding that this is prerequisite for leadership (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:3).
- b. Commit to set an example of personal devotion, understanding that this is prerequisite for leadership (1 Timothy 4:16; James 3:1).
- c. Commit to continuing study as God's workmen (2 Timothy 2:15).
- d. Commit to the provision of faithful preaching and teaching of the Word of Christ (2 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 Timothy 4:11).
- e. Commit to the protection of the gospel (Titus 1:9; Jude 3).
- f. Commit to the care of the flock (1 Peter 5:1-3; Ezekiel 34)
  - i. Feeding them faithfully.
  - ii. Strengthening the weak.
  - iii. Binding up the broken.
  - iv. Healing the sick.
  - v. Gathering the scattered.
  - vi. Looking for the lost.