

## **Our Covenant Tasks**

*...Carry out your own salvation with fear and trembling. God is the one who enables you both to want and to actually live out his good purposes.*

*Philippians 2:12b-13*

### **Goal for Church Covenant Study**

To embrace and fulfill our covenant relationship with God (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit) and each other.

### **Objective**

As a result of participating in this Covenant Discipleship Group learning experience, we will be able to state our covenant tasks by addressing the following questions:

- How do we maintain and grow in our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ?
- How do we allow ourselves to be used by the Holy Spirit to lead family members and others to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and commit to serve him as Lord?
- How do we demonstrate who we are as Christians in all our relationships and dealings?

### **Covenant Emphasis for this Session**

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to study diligently the word of God; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be kind and just to those in our employ, and faithful in the service we promise others; endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will towards all to exemplify and commend our holy faith.

### **Doctrinal Emphasis for this Session**

We believe the Scriptures teach that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

*Taken from New Hampshire Confession of Faith, 1833,  
Adopted by National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.*

When we respond to the leadership of the Holy Spirit by accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior, God *justifies* (counts us as righteous), *regenerates* (creates within us a desire to

be righteous) and binds us through baptism to him and others in covenant in the fellowship of the Church, universal and local. It is in the church that we are *sanctified* (made holy and righteous by the Holy Spirit as we make use of the appropriate means of grace which are Bible study, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

This is what we mean when we say in the Apostles Creed; “We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints...” It is in the church that we “*work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, because it is God who is at work in us both to will and to work for his good pleasure*” (Phil. 2:12b-13). In this section of our church covenant statement, we spell out how it is we work out our own salvation (claim the gift of sanctification) in partnership with the Holy Spirit.

- We do so by reading and studying the Bible, and other resources of the faith and calling on God in prayer personally, together with our immediate and larger church families regularly.

This is what we mean by maintaining family and secret devotions.

- We do so by intentionally educating our children in the content of our faith and allowing ourselves to be used by the Holy Spirit to lead our children and other family members to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and commit to serve him

The Educational ministries of the church are aimed at helping us fulfill this covenant responsibility. Their goal is to help us to know, trust, love and serve the Lord our God.

- We do so by seeking to live out our faith and to behave faithfully as Christians in all of our relationships. We seek to love others as we love ourselves, and as God in Christ loves us. This involves being fair and just to those who work for us, faithfully fulfilling our promises and keeping our commitments to all whom we deal with and being gracious and merciful to all, friend and foe alike. It is by doing so that the Holy Spirit is able to use us to lead persons beyond our family circles to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and commit to serve him as Lord.

The above statements express how we maintain and grow in our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ and allow ourselves to be used by the Holy Spirit to lead family members and others to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and commit to serve him as Lord.

