

# This is how we live with one another

## (Calvary Bible Church Covenant)

As family members of Calvary Bible Church...

We have embraced what the Bible says about God, mankind, and salvation. We believe God is our good, loving and just creator who sovereignly rules and has authority over all creation (Psalm 136:1-9; Rom 2:4). He made us to love Him, serve Him, obey Him, and enjoy Him forever (Deut 10:13)! His holiness requires such a holy response from us, but we have failed, choosing to go our own way apart from him since our birth (Eph 2:1-3). We are guilty of sin and incapable of loving and pleasing God on our own. Consistent with His holy justice, God must and will punish sin, a punishment that cannot be avoided by performing good works (Isaiah 64:6; 2 Thess 1:8-9). But, God demonstrated His holy love to us by sending Jesus, His Son, who died for sinners and paid our penalty (Isaiah 53:6; Rom 5:8). Jesus' death satisfied the demands of God's justice and Jesus' perfect life satisfied the demands of God's holiness, thus opening the door for our forgiveness and salvation – a free gift through faith in Jesus Christ (Matt 27:46; Rom 3:25-26; 1 Peter 3:18)! We believe true saving faith must include our love for Jesus and our obedience to his words (Mark 12:30; John 15:10).

As a family of believers, therefore, we desire to help one another follow Christ, obey him and turn from sin. We commit to doing this in the following ways:

... By maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph 4:3).

... By forgiving one another as God forgave us in Christ (Eph 4:32).

... By using our words to build one another up rather than tear down through gossip and slander (Eph 4:29).

... By continuing to meet together for the purpose of helping one another persevere in the faith (Heb 10:24-25).

... By rejoicing in one another's successes and endeavoring to bear one another's sorrows (Rom 12:15; 1 Cor 12:26).

... By exercising affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonishing and exhorting one another as the occasion may require (Matt 7:3-5; Gal 6:1).

... By living carefully in the world, choosing to be transformed by the Word of God and resisting the pressure to be conformed to the shape of the world (Rom 12:1-2).

... By humbly employing our gifts and talents for the Glory of God and for the growth of our brothers and sisters (1 Cor 12:4-7; Eph 4:11-16).

... By committing to the cultivation of a broken spirit and contrite heart in all areas of church life (Matt 5:3; Rom 12:3).

We trust in the power of the Holy Spirit who works in and through us to accomplish all of this and more than we could ever imagine (2 Cor 9:8; Eph 3:20-21)!