

Lightbearers Staff Covenant

We believe that being a member of Lightbearers staff is a result of calling. Our desire is to live in a way that edifies one another and glorifies God. Therefore, we covenant together, making a pledge before God and each other, that we will encourage one another and hold one another accountable in the following areas in order to be purified and above reproach and to protect the message of the Gospel.

Gospel

We have been called out from darkness and brought into God's kingdom because of Christ, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (1 Peter 2:9-10, Colossians 1:11-14). Therefore, in all things we give Jesus the glory (1 Corinthians 10:31, Philippians 1:20-21). We look forward to and labor until the day when His name will be known throughout the earth (Habakkuk 2:14).

We give attention to the public reading of Scripture, exhortation, and teaching (Nehemiah 1:8-9, 1 Timothy 4:13), submitting ourselves to biblical authority (Hebrews 13:7-9, 17, Romans 13:1-6). Therefore, we are involved with a local church that is evangelical and orthodox in its teaching. Each of us has spiritual gifts that we use for the glory of God and the edification of the body (1 Corinthians 12:4-7). We give, serve, and are personally known by fellow believers within our church.

Scripture

We view Scripture as God's revelation and profitable for all manners of life and doctrine (2 Timothy 3:16). We delight in the law of the Lord and see it as vital to our relationship with Christ (Joshua 1:8, John 15:7-8). Therefore, we cultivate a lifestyle that values the Bible through practices such as reading (Psalm 119:130), meditation (Psalm 119:97, Psalm 1:2), memorization (Deuteronomy 6:6, Psalm 119:11), observing the Sabbath (Isaiah 58:13-14, Exodus 31:13) and the like.

Relationship

We hold fast to building up the body and encourage each other with brotherly affection, in sincerity rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep (Hebrews 3:13, Romans 12:10,15). We seek to protect marriages and have appropriate interactions with the opposite sex (Hebrews 13:4a). We maintain appropriate accountability and mentorship in life and ministry (Titus 2:1-8).

We are reconciled to God and are ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). In speech we build each other up, forgiving one another (Philippians 2:3-4, Ephesians 4:29-32). We recognize that quarrels and fights come from our own selfish desires (James 4:1-2). Therefore, we evaluate ourselves first in an effort to keep relational integrity with one another. When the need arises, we confront each other in love for the purpose of reconciliation. We restore one another gently with wisdom, grace, and if necessary, by engaging the leadership of the local church (Galatians 6:1-2, Matthew 18:15-17).

Stewardship

We recognize that the earth is the Lord's and that everything in it belongs to Him (Psalm 24:1), yet we know the world is not our home and it continually tempts our desire of the flesh, desire of the eyes, and pride in possessions (1 Peter 2:11-12, 1 John 2:16, Hebrews 13:5). Therefore, as faithful stewards of what God has given us, we give generously and model a life that does not store up treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19-21, 1 Corinthians 4:2).

We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which He prepared beforehand (Ephesians 2:10). Therefore, we seek to honor God with the resources and opportunities we've been given (Ephesians 5:15-16).

Purity

We love sincerely, hate what is evil, and hold fast to what is good (Romans 12:9-13). We offer our bodies as living sacrifices, not conforming to this world, and thinking of ourselves with sober judgment (Romans 12:1-3). Therefore, we take actions that are rooted in love and honor our bodies, abstaining from harmful lifestyle patterns. When it comes to eating, drinking, and what we wear, we defer to fellow believers whom we are with in order to not cause them to stumble (Romans 14:13-23).

We think on things that are excellent and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8, Psalm 19:14). We consecrate ourselves for holiness because God is holy (Leviticus 20:26). Therefore, we guard our minds and hearts in all areas (Hebrews 12:1, 1 Timothy 6:20-21, Colossians 2:8). We avoid entertainment that exalts sin and fight our fleshly tendencies towards gluttony, rivalry, self-reliance, and the like.

In Covenant,

We recognize that without the redemptive work of Christ we can do nothing good. We seek to live out this covenant by the grace of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the mutual encouragement and forgiveness of one another. We recognize we are imperfect. Therefore, in agreement, we sign this covenant holding it as a standard to guard and guide as we strive to fulfill our mission.

Staff Covenant Scripture References
English Standard Version

Gospel

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Colossians 1:13-14

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Philippians 1:20-21

As it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Habakkuk 2:14

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Nehemiah 1:8-9

Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.

1 Timothy 4:13

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

Hebrews 13:7-9, 17

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them ... Obey your leaders and submit to them, for

they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Romans 13:1-6

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit and there are varieties of service, by the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching. For reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Joshua 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

John 15:7-8

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciple.

Psalms 119:130

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

Psalms 119:97

Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

Psalms 1:2

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Deuteronomy 6:6

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

Psalms 119:11

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Isaiah 58:13-14

If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly, then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Exodus 31:13

You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbath, for this is a sign between me and you throughout the generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you.'

Relationship

Hebrews 3:13

But exhort one another every day; as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Romans 12:10,15

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor ... Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Hebrews 13:4a

Let marriage be held in honor among all.

Titus 2:1-8

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Ephesians 4:29-32

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

James 4:1-2

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

Galatians 6:1-2

Brothers, if anyone is caught up in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Matthew 18:15-17

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Stewardship

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

1 Peter 2:11-12

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1 John 2:16

For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions – is not from the Father but is from the world.

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Matthew 6:19-21

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1 Corinthians 4:2

Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 5:15-16

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Purity

Romans 12:9-13

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Romans 12:1-3

I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Romans 14:13-23

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Psalms 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Leviticus 20:26

You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

1 Timothy 6:20-21

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.