

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.

Humbled by the Gospel

The reality of the Gospel compels us to work with all our heart to the glory of God alone. We exist to point others to Christ.

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.

Guided by Scripture

The Bible is our only guide for wisdom and righteous living. Trusting in our judgment alone is folly.

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.

Drawn to People

Our love for people draws us towards them and their needs. People matter more than process or property.

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).

Motivated by Stewardship

Believing God owns and we steward, we manage our resources as ones who will give an account to God and others. We keep God's purposes in mind at all times.

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).

Marked with Purity

Our actions, intentions and communications are clear and above reproach. We don't fear the consequences of integrity.

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.

Signature

Date

Staff Covenant Scripture References

English Standard Version

Humbled by the Gospel

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

John 1:11-12

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:14

Guided by Scripture

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...

2 Timothy 3:16

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

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

Psalms 119:130

Drawn to People

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3:12-14

Motivated by Stewardship

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

Psalms 90:12-17

Do nothing from selfish ambition 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.

Philippians 2:3-4

Marked with Purity

Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

Psalm 119:165

We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as imposters, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

2 Corinthians 6:3-10

He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.

Proverbs 22:11

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

Psalm 19:14