

SESSION SEVEN

WHY JOIN FFC?

I. WHAT IS A COMMITTED BROKEN SERVANT?

At FFC every member of the body is referred to as a Committed Broken Servant (CBSer). Believers are commanded to serve Christ through the one vehicle that He ordained, the local church. In doing so, believers look to the absolute truth of God's Word for our divine instruction and guidance. The New Testament Church model we seek to follow is in *Acts 2:41-47*.

A. Committed

1. To **Christ** *Acts 2:41*
Salvation - "gladly received the word..."
Baptism - "were baptized ..."
Commitment - added unto them about 3000 souls
2. To Communion with **Truth** *Acts 2:42*
The Word of God
To Fellowship
Breaking of bread
Prayer
3. To **Community** *Acts 2:43-47*
Had all things common
Gave to each other from what they had
They were united
Praise God together
Loved to be with each other

B. Broken – To self – Of self

1. **Poor** in spirit *Matthew 5:3*
2. **Yielded** to Christ *Romans 6:2,6*
3. Walking in **repentance** *2 Corinthians 7:11*

C. Servant – Loving to all

1. No **reputation** *Philippians 2: 5-16*
2. **Humility** *Matthew 20:25-28*
3. Ask not what the local church can do for you, but what you can do for the local church
Mark 10:42-45

II. WHY BECOME A COMMITTED BROKEN SERVANT?

A. Wrong ways of thinking about church

Some folks think they can follow Jesus by going on a hike on Sundays to enjoy God's nature, or by having a little service in their house, but they stay out of "organized religion". Others view church as something to shop for. They go here for a while, and there for a while. Some people enjoy the benefits of some kind of church service group (such as a singles group), and attend services when the topic sounds interesting. And then there are folks who love the preaching and slip out when it's done, never thinking of joining the church. These people all see themselves as Christians, and they all have a similar view that it is unimportant to commit to a local church. The problem is that they all misunderstand **fundamentally** what it means to be a Christian. The Bible teaches that **all** Christians belong in churches as committed members.

B. What the Bible teaches we should think about church.

The church is a group of people who have **believed** and **accepted** the gospel (Ephesians 1:3-3:7). They do not seek to make an impression on each other, or to make religious rules and regulations to keep, but they are filled with profound **gratitude** for God's forgiveness and have a longing to reflect the righteousness God has imputed onto them through Christ Jesus. There is no dividing wall between them; as a matter of fact they have nothing in common except Christ Jesus. The church is a gathering of people who are **different** from each other in the world's eyes, but share Christ in common and so live together in unity and love according to God's Word (2 Corinthians 5:16). Biblical **instruction** fuels the gathering, and **praise** is the response of the gathering. But the core of the called out people of God is loving unity for His glory.

This **unity** is so profound that it is called a mystery (Ephesians 3:3), hidden for generations and now made known (Ephesians 3:6). The **unity** and **love** of the church as a body glorifies God and presents a witness to the watching world that God sent Jesus (John 13, John 17:20-21, 1 John 4:20). Love between Christians is **not** an optional part of the Christian life. Christians don't just attend church, they **invest** in messy, difficult, God-glorifying relationships with people they otherwise have nothing in common with. Not to love and be committed to the church fails to show off the gospel life God creates inside Christians. The Bible teaches that the **unity** of the body of Christ is necessary in order to show the world God's perfect plan and the power of the gospel (Ephesians 4:1-16). Any other way of thinking is futile, darkened, and alienated from the life of God (Ephesians 4:17-20).

If you call yourself a Christian, you **need** to be an integral part of a church. God's purpose in saving you was that you might bring glory to him through the life you live in **communion** with other Christians. If you do not join yourself with a body of believers in order to live that out, you have failed to live out what the Bible says is absolutely fundamental to what it means to be a Christian.

C. Images used in the New Testament to teach the necessity of being part of a church

1. Image of **buildings** (*1 Corinthians 3:9, Ephesians 2:21, 2 Corinthians 6:16*).
If the bricks aren't in a building, they can't really part of it.
2. Image of a **body** (*Romans 12:4-5, Hebrews 12*).
You can't be a member of a physical body and not be attached to it.
3. Image of a **flock** (*1 Peter 5:2*).
If we are sheep, we will be part of the flock.
4. Image of a **family** (*1 Timothy 3:15, Ephesians 1:5*)
If we are called to be God's children, we are going to be in His family.

D. Five reasons to join the church

1. Join a church for **non-Christians**

- a. The church is there to help you better understand if you are truly living as a Christian (*1 Corinthians 5:1-5*).
- b. The church needs to be a place where non Christians can see that they are deceived into thinking they are Christians, but that they are not living like Christians. The church is where we see whether or not we are living out this Christianity we profess.
- c. Sadly, American churches have used altar calls to fill their seats with non-Christians who sincerely intend to be Christians, and may have prayed a prayer but don't give any signs of really knowing the Lord. There are no altar calls in Scripture, thus FFC does not use this form of evangelism. Instead, we call people to repent and believe, like Jesus did (Mark 1:15).

2. Join a church for **weaker** Christians

- a. We all know folks who say they have been badly wounded and have bought into the American consumer mentality that they can be their own shepherd. But God's Word teaches we are to be part of a church where there is baptism, Lord's supper, and biblical leadership that preaches the Word of God rightly.
- b. We need to make it no longer acceptable to call oneself a Christian and not be involved in a local church. Sheep need to be in the fold or no longer call themselves Christians.
- c. Perhaps as you throw yourself into the church in a committed fashion, you may encourage those weaker in the faith who see the church as an added option (unfortunately that includes some who see themselves as involved in ministry).

3. Join a church for **stronger** Christians

- a. John 13:34-35
- b. If you see yourself as a strong Christian, but aren't committed to a group of people who are different than you, you might not even have much reason to think you are converted.

- c. The more we know our own sin and know the way God has forgiven us in Christ, the more that love finds a way out of our hearts to other people, especially to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

4. Join a church for church leaders

- a. Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 5:1-5
- b. Practically, you need elders and deacons to pray for you, to grow in preaching, teaching, and serving you well.

5. Join a church for God

- a. Acts 2:39-41
- b. It is God who identifies with the church and tells those who persecute it that they are persecuting Him (Acts 7:4).
- c. The church is God's body, and bought with His blood (Acts 20:29).

III. WHO BECOMES A COMMITTED BROKEN SERVANT?

A. Those becoming CBSers through this church shall consist of individuals who:

1. Have received Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior.
2. Have been baptized.
3. Are in complete agreement with the doctrinal stance of FFC, and the FFC Church Covenant.

B. Admission of new CBSers into the body:

After completing all ten classes, please call the church office for a meeting with an elder. The next step is that the elder recommends you to all the FFC elders as a Committed Broken Servant. Then, during a Friday night CBS Testimony night (dinner), your elder will ask you questions in front of the congregation. Finally, a pledge will be made between you and the body (at any regularly scheduled church service), and you will be welcomed into the body.

Death or letter of transfer concludes the relationship as Committed Broken Servant of Jesus Christ at FFC. If a CBSer volitionally neglects attendance for a period of six consecutive months, the FFC church leadership obeys the mandate of Matthew 18:15-17.

C. There are two types of Committed Broken Servants:

1. Jr. Committed Broken Servant – between the ages of 12-18.
-Jr. CBS'ers can serve in ministry, but not oversee a ministry.

2. **Adult** Committed Broken Servant.

IV. COMMITTED BROKEN SERVANT STATEMENT

We, the Committed Broken Servants of Faith Fellowship Church, having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and upon profession of our faith having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, do now, in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another as one body in Christ. Our purpose, therefore, *by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells us*, is to:

- Love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
- Maintain personal, family, and corporate prayer lives.
- Read, study, obey and apply our lives to the principles found in God's Word.
- Love one another as He loves us.
- Strive together in advancing the gospel and the ministry of Faith Fellowship Church.
- Evangelize our friends and relatives by sharing Christ with them.
- Zealously work to edify the body through doctrine, fellowship, worship, and prayer.
- Contribute cheerfully and regularly to the financial support of this ministry.
- Separate ourselves from the ways of living that would detract from the testimony of Christ to this world, and follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit in this regard.
- Exhibit hospitality to the poor in our fellowship and in our community.

In addition to these guidelines, we believe that our testimony is confirmed by the manifestation of love we have one for another; therefore, we purpose to:

- Watch over one another in prayer.
- Watch over one another in sickness and distress.
- Be slow in taking offense, but swift in forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Refuse involvement in all gossip, tattling, murmur, slander, and backbiting.
- Earnestly endeavor in the cultivation and maintenance of unity.