



COVENANT MEMBERSHIP PACKET

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Why Membership? At Genesis Church we choose to move forward in the understanding that membership is important because it unites the body of Christ TOGETHER. It is not meant in any way to divide members from attenders, but to unite a family of people who are willing to commit to become an active part of the Church and its vision. In our day and culture too many people want to just “attend” church without making a commitment to root themselves in it. Membership calls us to participate and engage, not consume and observe.

At Genesis Church, membership happens within the idea of “covenant”. For thousands of years a covenant was a binding agreement in which covenant members had certain obligations and could expect certain benefits in return. What makes a covenant different from a simple binding agreement is that covenant implies meaningful relationship. We find covenant all through the Scriptures. In the Bible, covenant meant an agreement that lasted for life. For example, we find it happening with Noah, Abraham, Moses, the people of Israel, and a new covenant, available to all through Jesus. At Genesis, we’re attempting to use this meaningful term while recognizing that membership at a local church is often not for life. This is one reason why we occasionally ask members to renew their covenant.

Any follower of Christ is invited to become a Covenant Member of Genesis Church. In covenanting with us, you both agree to and adopt our shared values, beliefs, and INTENTIONAL way of living.

Orlando, a city that begins to conjure up thoughts of vacation, fun, and magic. People can do just about anything within the city and its surrounding opportunities, but there is a greater truth that most people miss... Orlando is a deeply disconnected city. A place where local people don't feel an ownership of their own town. A place where fun is around every corner but true joy in life is missing. A city where diversity, language and culture often make it even more difficult to live together. It's a city that has seen many churches come, and equally as many go. People everywhere are left feeling lost, looking for relationships and a hope for something more.

Because...2 million+ people live here

Because...of it's diversity: 61% *Caucasian* / 29% *African American* / 18% *Hispanic* / 3% *Asian*

Because...80,000 new people move to the Orlando area every year

Because...its the WORLD'S #1 tourist attraction (*40 million+ visit a year*)

Because...only 14.7% of people attend a church

Because...54% claim NO religious affiliation

Because...there are more kids in the zip code (32828) than in any other in Florida

Because... it is home to the countries 3rd largest university (University of Central Florida)

The truth of this reality leaves people most often looking elsewhere to live. It's easier to just visit a city like this, and leave for home with no responsibility for what takes place beyond the "fun". We however, see this city through a different lens. This is a city where the gospel has endless opportunities. This is a city where over two million people do not attend church although there are churches on almost every corner. If statistics are correct, this means many, many people do not even know about Jesus, leaving them lost, broken, and without hope. Understanding this, our hearts break for a city that has so many distractions. Distractions that are keeping people from finding the source of truth that is essential for the best life possible. This is our reason.

After my first year of college, I was asked to do an internship at First Baptist Orlando. It was during this time that my passion and desire to live in the Orlando community began. Over the next 13 years, I would spend every college break, my family would vacation often and we would search for any other opportunity to return to Orlando. The feel, look, and even smell drew us back time and time again. Call us crazy, but we just love the place.

After years as a Pastor at a church, we began to understand that God's story for our lives was bigger than what we had imagined. God was beginning to burn in our hearts a desire to take the things we had learned and experienced to people, and engage them with the message of Jesus in a different place. After much prayer and counsel, we realized that God was asking our family to live with and serve the people of Orlando. We took our thoughts in October of 2008 to our Pastor at West Ridge Church; Brian Bloye, who we worked on staff with for eight years. In our time at West Ridge we saw a leader who had a vision and passion for starting churches and it caught our hearts. This passion of his fueled the desires we carried and gave us the encouragement to begin this new journey.

In November of 2008 we announced to our church that we would be leaving. We spent months preparing, visiting the city, and prepping to start a Church from scratch. In June of 2009 we moved our family leaving our home, job, benefits, friends, church and family to be obedient to God's call. It wasn't easy, but we knew that God was in control. We also had others willing to do the same because they too believed in the vision that God was asking of us. We had two close friends commit to moving from Georgia to be part of our staff and two others families from West Ridge who committed to move from everything they knew, just to be part of what God was going to do with this church. In the fall of 2009 we began to build a foundation by doing community events, meeting with anyone who found out about us, and building our launch team for when Sunday services began.

Over the next few months we would start to implement our vision, strategy, and purpose to prepare for the start of Genesis Church on January 24, 2010. Years of learning, years of wrestling, years of growing had led us to this... A new church that would be a new beginning for many people in city that is in desperate need of the life and hope in Jesus.

At Genesis Church we hold very high the calling of a Pastor. We believe and understand the responsibility, requirements, and roles found in 1 Timothy 3. Because of this, we believe that each Pastor is important, plays many roles and is responsible to play a vital part in helping train up the body of Christ. We don't departmentalize the Pastors at Genesis Church. We function TOGETHER to fulfill the purposes of the Church. Therefore, you might see certain Pastors using their gifts and talents in certain roles, but it does not mean that their role is their only responsibility or that they are not able to help in other areas like another Pastor.

Lead Pastor Tim Grandstaff / Oversees: Teaching, Staff, Intentional Living Strategy

Wife: Tandy Grandstaff

Children: Cobe & Cayden

Pastor Jason Chandler / Oversees: Music, Sunday Services, Media & Arts

Wife: Rachel Chandler

Pastor Jim Simpson / Oversees: Discipleship Strategies, Volunteer Implementation

Wife: Katie Simpson

Children: Sophie & Jack

Pastor Joel Owen/ Oversees: KIDGenesis

Wife: Holly Owen

Rethinking Life the Way God Intended

Romans 12:2 "be transformed by the renewing of your mind"

"A man is but the product of his thoughts, what he thinks, he becomes." - Gandhi

Reflect on that statement for a moment...

Could it really be that what you think about yourself and this world is what you become? That you could be transformed by how you think? People wrestle daily with thoughts of fear, failure, jealousy, loneliness, and despair. Being trapped by these types of thoughts only hinder and add to the chaos life throws our way. This way of life binds people and leaves them lost, helplessly wandering through this world. We believe that there is a God whose thoughts are greater than ours, and because of that; what God intended for our life is very different from what we tend to think. God has a story that is full of hope, courage, redemption, and love. Understanding this invitation stirs us to find the life He originally designed for us. Once realized, our responsibility then becomes helping others rethink their invitation into this same story.

OUR NAME: GENESIS

Gen*e*sis [**jen-uh-sis**] – an origin, creation, or beginning

Our name does mean something to us. It's not just something we grabbed from the sky and found that it looked good with a logo. Genesis is the beginning, the first book of the Bible... the beginning of God's story. Genesis Church is about new beginnings for everyone. We follow a God who's mercy is new each morning! Each day is a new opportunity to start over, to return and find your Creator. As we approach life it will always be with the understanding that we will go back to the beginning of Scripture and see how close we can live to the way God originally intended things to be.

PEOPLE

People are God's treasure. In fact he told them so in Exodus 19:5 "...you will be my treasured possession". God's original design was for people to be together. All people. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 4 "Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: There was a man all alone." This is why we value building authentic relationships with people. Jesus' ministry & life were solely about helping, loving and reaching people. No one was ever excluded and everyone was invited to join. In following the way of Jesus we welcome, accept, invite, live with and among everyone, no matter their background, race, political party, shape, size, dress or any other idea that might put a dividing wall between two people. God's design happens best when this way of living takes place.

//Genesis 2:18 / Exodus 19:1-5 / Ecclesiastes 4:7-12 / Mark 12:29 / 1 John 4:7-21

FAMILY

Family is important. Although each family looks very different from the next, we believe that family should be of the highest priority. Outside of our relationship with God, our relationship with family is crucial. The role of a husband to his wife, a wife to her husband, parents to children, and children to parents are painted all through the Bible. We believe that we are to help others understand that a family learning, giving, and being together has a huge advantage in discovering the life God designed for each of its members.

//Deuteronomy 6:4-5 / Proverbs 13 / Ephesians 5:21-33

SCRIPTURE

We believe that the Scriptures are God's very words given to us. They are inspired by God and recorded by men. God's word is not just a check box each day on our list of things to do as a Christian. We believe these poems, letters, accounts and stories are essential for daily living. Our responsibility is to learn how to live these words to the world we are placed in. We value reading, learning, and memorizing these words so that we have them on our hearts and minds as we enter in and out of relationships with people.

//Deuteronomy 6:4-9 / Joshua 1:7-8 / Psalm 18:30 / Philippians 4:8-9 / 2 Timothy 3:16-17

PRAYER

We believe prayer is not bound to time or schedule. Prayer is communicating with God in every moment of the day. Prayer is powerful and was established for community, healing, and restoration among each other and with God. We believe God longs to walk and talk with us. We also acknowledge the honor we have to speak with Him, but must also have the discipline to be silent to hear Him. We believe that God is always listening to the cries of His people and draws close to us when we draw close to Him. Without prayer, we are incapable of truly living in a relationship with God.

// Matthew 6:5-18 / Ephesians 6:18 / James 5:13-15

REST & SIMPLICITY

We believe that God designed the world to work in a certain rhythm. Most people enter in and out of their week, frantically wearing themselves out from trying to do too much. In doing so they never understand that they are trying to control and dictate the outcome of life for themselves. We believe God is in control. We do believe that we are to work hard and that rest does not equal laziness. Still our value is to teach people to step back, rethink their calendar and schedule times of rest. When we do this we are displaying to God that we trust him with all of our life.

We also believe that simple is better. The world is already full of complex choices and decisions to make. The Bible although difficult at times to understand, is an instruction to live life different from the patterns of the world. Through a simple approach, we believe the best life possible can be found.

//Exodus 31:12-16 / Deuteronomy 8 / Matthew 6:25 - 33 / Matthew 11:28

TOGETHERNESS

We believe that we are to play an active role in the world God created. Together as a body we are to set the example of how to steward our time, resources, and abilities in this world. We are the embodiment of His message to those on the other side of the planet and to those next door to us. We believe that God has a plan to reclaim and restore His creation; and what we do while we are living matters. Our call is to work together as a team to reproduce people who understand this way of living. Through strategic work, we will see this happen through networking with other churches, outreach, serving our community, church planting, and any other crazy idea that just might work to teach people: that they are the church in the world wherever they go.

//Genesis 1:28-29 / Psalm 24:1-2 / Matthew 28:18-19 / John 3:16 / Acts 1:9 / Romans 8

PREPARATION, CREATIVITY, EXCELLENCE

Our passion is to engage people with the message of Jesus from the best we have to offer. We believe that we were designed to be creative and that the best ideas, thoughts and dreams should come by those who see life through different lenses. God has given each of us a small platform to use our gifts and skills in a unique way. We set high standards and make our standards explicit so that we can evaluate our progress in this area as a team. We believe that every expression of the Church must be done with authenticity, integrity, and excellence. Because we believe this, we find it important that we bring our hearts and souls when we come together. We hold the right to defer or decline anything that is not the best we can possibly do or within our purpose. Still, this value is only possible when time and preparation are taking place.

// Colossians 3:17

PLAY & RECREATION

Each of us have unique hobbies and interests that allow us to enjoy the world around us. It is vital that we enjoy these moments to find balance to life for our own health. We will recognize the seasons of business and plan breaks accordingly. We find extreme value in vacations and sabbaticals to find fun and rest in the life God created for us.

// Genesis 2

The beliefs (*theology*) of a community are important. They are written down for others to understand where one might stand or align themselves on certain issues. While needed, this sometimes never allows the reader to truly glimpse what the community is all about. Our desire is that the ways in which we live out our beliefs would be more important than the documentation of them.

2 Corinthians 3:2 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. 3 You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

We believe as a Church that there are foundational truths that can't be moved. (*example: Jesus is the only way, eternal security, fulfillments of prophecy, God, Holy Spirit, Inspired Word of God, Baptism, Sin, etc. *see more below*) We will not change these beliefs because we believe in a God who does not change. We do however recognize that there are some interpretations of scripture that our people may see differently than what we believe or teach here at Genesis Church. (*example: tongues, end times, free will vs. predestination, etc.*) We do not believe that these personal interpretations should divide the body of Christ. Genesis may believe, interpret, and teach them differently than you think or were brought up to understand, but our goal is that the foundational truths are the beliefs in which are moving us forward. For this Church it is the learning, discipleship, and study of our God's Word that our theology and interpretations for how we function are made.

THIS IS WHAT WE BELIEVE...

We believe there is one God, and this God exists in three personalities... Father, Son, and Spirit. These three personalities are co-equal and one in God.

We believe the Bible is God's story, inspired by His Spirit, and given to people to live out in the world around them.

We believe God created the world, and it was good.

We believe man and women were created in the image of God.

We believe God's design was to live together with His creation and for his creation to live in community with each other.

We believe sin entered into this world and caused creation to become separated from this relationship.

We believe that God had a plan to restore and redeem His creation and that Jesus was the only way by which this would be accomplished.

We believe His son Jesus was born of a virgin and was the fulfillment of prophecy.

We believe that Jesus died, was buried, and then raised from the dead, defeating death, and bringing salvation for all who long to be restored, reconciled, and renewed.

We believe the Spirit of God dwells in the lives of those who accept and leads them to live a life different from the patterns of the world.

We believe that God has chosen to use the Church, as agents who reflect Him to the world.

We believe that God will return to judge the world, and rid it of evil and injustice.

We believe that God will restore and renew creation according to the way He has designed it to be.

We believe in a day where God's Kingdom will be with His people, and creation will dwell with Him forever.

References: Genesis 1 / Genesis 2 / Genesis 3 / Deuteronomy 6 / Isaiah 60-61 / Luke 1-2 / Mark 12-16 / Acts 1-2 / 1 Corinthians 15 / Revelation 20-21

GATHERINGS

Gatherings bring an entire community of people TOGETHER. With people of all color and age groups we want to reclaim the beauty of learning, praising, serving, and growing together. During these gatherings, we also want to take part and celebrate in communion, giving, and baptism as a community. We believe that learning God's Word is the highest form of worship because it pushes us towards a new way of living. What happens during this time is the beginning of what is to take place the rest of the week. Therefore, we value a time where we can gather together to take part in this with others.

TOGETHERNESS

We all ache for meaningful relationships but often find it difficult to actually exist in them. We believe that we were created to live life together... with others. God designed us this way and life makes more sense when this happens. We want to help create ways for people to access and influence each other, while rethinking how to serve the life of someone else. In a home, restaurant, coffee shop, park or other, this is an opportunity for people to network in real relationships. It's in these gatherings & moments that we want to reproduce followers of Jesus Christ, who seek out others through their way of living. This is intentional living.

SERVING

We want to do all we can to help people rethink love in this world. Together with others, we want to love in such a way that no one could deny Jesus any longer. Through engaging in the area schools; local organizations; communities of Orlando; Burkina Faso, Africa; and other local and global opportunities, we desire to let others see Jesus through our life. We do believe that the body of Christ is to serve within the church as well. We hope to engage many people in helping accomplish these moments, and we value this because it allows for more people to have an opportunity to learn how they can live the life God has designed for each of them.

BAPTISM? [Baptism or *'baptizo'* (Greek) = to immerse in a body of water]

We invite you to take part in believers baptism here at Genesis Church, a moment for you to publicly identify yourself with Jesus in death and resurrection. We believe that baptism is obedience and a beautiful and sacred opportunity to display to the world, "I am a follower of a new way of living, the way of Jesus, and I commit to following this way of Jesus in the world God has placed me in."

We do not believe that baptism saves you, or washes away your sin. It is obedience to Christ and we should desire to do so as quick as we can.

We are aware that there are people who come from different backgrounds with different concepts of baptism. Our understanding here at Genesis is that baptism is by immersion and is a profession of faith after you have entered into the relationship God always intended to have with you. We also believe that baptism does not automatically make you a member of Genesis Church or of any other denomination.

As for children and infants we believe that water baptism is a sign/symbol of a person's professing of faith, and as a result, feel it is confusing to perform water baptism on infants. Instead we practice child dedications on infants and young children. When a child makes a choice to follow Jesus, they have the opportunity to declare to others that decision of Jesus through baptism.

(*read more of our understanding on our web site)

Romans 3:3-4 *Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

WHAT TYPE OF CHURCH ARE YOU?

We are simply a Church. BY CHOICE we are not a certain “denomination” for those who may inquire to know. This is not because we want to be called “non-denominational” nor are we against them. Actually our heart is that we would just be known as the Church to this city. Tired of things that separate the body of Christ, we want all walls to come down that might inhibit a person from experiencing Church. We are Kingdom minded. In fact we have had many different types of churches who have played a part in helping Genesis start. (*see on our web site*). Not being known as a certain “denomination” can help some people and hinder others depending on how you were raised. Our desire and prayer is that you would come and see what Genesis is truly about instead of trying to just find a “church” like you were raised in.

WHAT ABOUT KIDS?

We teach the same things as we do to the adults, just on the kids’ level. We are trying our best to unite the church in growing TOGETHER. Each week Story Tellers take truths and foundational understanding from the teaching the adults receive and engage our kids with the same. Our goal is to help families grow, to keep the conversations going, and to find their place in God’s Kingdom TOGETHER.

Can I bring my child in the service if needed?

YES! We never want to hinder you from being able to learn and worship with others. We do encourage families to use KidGenesis as a place to allow their children to grow, engage, and interact with others their same age. However, we understand that we do now know the circumstances, situations, or issues that might arise between you and your children. Therefore we trust you as the parent to make the best decision possible for your situation.

CHURCH STRUCTURE?

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. The Bible, His word, clearly defines the structure, mission, and way of living in which the church functions.

At Genesis Church we believe in the roles of Elder, Overseer and Pastor. In the early stages the Church will have a chosen board of Overseer's who help in the direction and decisions of the Church appointed by the Lead Pastor. These Overseer's / Pastor's are men of God who shepherd, lead, guide, and disciple the Pastors of Genesis Church. The Pastors are the leaders of Genesis Church who make the necessary decisions through obedience to God, to shepherd the Church in it's mission, resources, and doctrine.

As time continues Genesis will appoint it's own board of Elders. These men will be guide rails for the Church and it's vision. They are chosen to be mentors who provide wisdom and accountability for the Lead Pastor and Pastors of Genesis Church. Their primary responsibility is to look after the physical health, emotional health, and spiritual health of the Pastors and their home. They are not in place to dictate or derail the Church from its vision or the direction in which the Pastors are called to lead the Church. They are not in place to override the decisions made by the Pastors of the Church. Their heart and approach to this role must be to help progress the vision of Genesis Church. Each Overseer or Elder must meet the requirements found in 1 Timothy 3:1-11 and Titus 1:5-9.

BIBLICAL HISTORY OF ELDER:

"Elder", from the Greek word presbuteros refers to a spiritually mature person with wisdom who guides God's people. They emerged in the Old Testament as leaders in cities (Judges 8:14), tribes (Judges 11:5), and in the nation of Israel (Exodus 3:16). By the time of the New Testament they had become a part of the Sanhedrin, the ruling Jewish body in the Roman Empire. The Sanhedrin was comprised of the chief priest, scribes, and elders who were considered lay people (Mark 11:27, 14:43, 15:1). As the first churches were Jewish in membership, it was natural for God to use this idea for church leadership. They begin appearing in Acts, where they received offerings in churches (11:30), were selected by Paul and Barnabas (14:23), were part of the decision makers with the apostles in the Gentile question (15:2,4,6,22,23), and Paul visited with them as the leaders of churches (20:17, 21:18)

DISCIPLESHIP

The final thought you need to know about Genesis Church, and perhaps the most important, is our strive to be obedient to the last commandment that Jesus gave here on earth. Commonly known as the “Great Commission,” read what Jesus said before he ascended:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

In some understandings, discipleship is added to the list that a church tries to implement. At Genesis Church, EVERYTHING we do is centered around discipleship. The way we learn, the way we love, the way we worship, the way we serve, our obedience to the Great Commandment, the way we live TOGETHER is how we set out to be disciples of Jesus and thus make disciples for him. Simply put, discipleship is not optional. It is the purpose of a follower of Jesus Christ!

As a member of Genesis Church, you are agreeing that you understand your sole responsibility as a follower of Jesus is to pursue your life as his disciple in living, loving, and learning. You are also agreeing to be a part of a body, who takes very seriously, the charge of our Savior: “.....go and make disciples of all nations...”

*The ways found below are not programs but aspects of your walk as a disciple here at Genesis Church.

INTENTIONAL LIVING?

Colossians 4:2-6

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversations be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

Intentional living = strategic, purposeful, and sacrificial moments engaging you with others.

The Greatest Commandment was... Love God. Love People.

Intentional living affects where you work, play, eat, shop, and anywhere you might find yourself.

Intentional living is a realization that YOU are the Church wherever you go!

- Friends
- Family
- Work
- School
- Ball fields
- Shopping, restaurants, gym, etc.

How to live intentional:

1. Involve other Christians and your family.
2. Join others in service projects, sporting events, restaurants, etc.
3. Discover what God is doing in the life of others and join Him.
4. Develop far neighbors into near neighbors.
 - *to be intentional patronize the same stores / restaurants*
 - *go in the bank, use the same coffee house, same dry cleaner, etc.*
 - *play at the park, walk your kids to school, walk your street in the evening to meet others*
 - *eat with others. (grill out, invite them over, etc.)*
5. Use the holidays
 - *invite them to something*
 - *decorate and celebrate with them*
 - *involve your children*
 - *prepare other believers to engage wisely your un-churched friends*
6. Give vacation days to your neighbors. *(help them with an event, party, moving, etc.)*

**Our church calendar & personal calendar could be our biggest obstacle to living intentionally with others*

SERVING

Ownership is key to the Church. People who understand that they are the body of Christ realize that as a member you have gifts, abilities, talents, skills, and an obligation to fulfill your part in the Church. It might be on Sundays, it might be during the week, or it might be on the other side of the world. No matter where, as a covenant member you are placing yourself in a position to help play a part in all functions of the Church. These roles are not just for some, while others choose to “attend”. As a covenant member you are willing to sacrifice your time, needs, and wants to help the Church progress forward and meet the needs of others.

AREAS TO SERVE

**Set up and tear down for Genesis Church is only accomplished when everyone is helping. For this reason there is no official “set up & tear down” team. Each of us must help in whatever areas needed to prepare the church so that it may function at it’s highest level to teach and reach people when we gather.*

KidGenesis

- Nursery
- Preschool
- K – 5
- Check In
- Welcome Team

Guest Services

- Welcome Team
- Greeting
- Coffee
- Info Table
- Worship Guides
- Parking (drop off & pick up lines)
- Farewell Team

Audio / Visual / Band

- Sound
- Video
- Note Slides
- KidGenesis & Auditorium

Follow Up / Admin

- Weekly worship guides
- Follow up with guests

Prayer Team

- Pray weekly for requests submitted by others & by the church
- Show up early to pray for Church & it’s people

Host Home

- Open to using your home for studies, meetings, planned activities etc.

Activities

- Trailer pick up and return
- Grilling for activities or events
- Serving and setup for events

Global & Local

- Community Service Projects
- Coordinators
- Missions Trips

THINGS TO KNOW

Each area has it’s own job descriptions and requirements depending on the area and needs for that service opportunity. As you sign up you will be contacted and given the appropriate info needed by that areas overseer.

GIVING / TITHING

How are we to give?

1. Sacrificially (We do not tip God)
2. Proportionately (Mt. 12:43-44; 1 Cor. 16:1-3)
3. Gladly and generously (2 Cor. 8-9)
4. The best of what we have (Rom. 12:1)

OBEDIENCE

When we hear the Word of God and see that Scripture is very clear about giving our resources, we will respond. Most of us want to do the right thing and please God. I believe we have shied away from teaching the heart of God and Scripture in the local church. We will be teaching people very clearly about the subject of generosity as it is displayed in God's heart.

NEED

People give if a very specific and urgent need is presented. Hurricane Katrina or any disaster is a great example of people liking to give towards needs. The gift is often times driven by urgency and tangibility. People feel good about giving to the collective solution. Our society likes to see instant results with our gifts. We will attempt to communicate with you urgent need.

VISION

Whether it's tangible, intangible, short-term or long-term, people give to a preferred future. People are longing to make a difference, and giving towards vision gives them a way to accomplish that.

RELATIONSHIPS

Understand that people give to people. We all like to see friends win. This is why I believe in creating environments throughout the year (retreats, lunches, meetings, etc.) where people can connect relationally with our staff team and each other. The more relational currency we build up, the better chance we have to see how our blessings can be shared with others.

EDUCATION

Most people can't give a portion of their income to anything because they're spending 105% or more of it. We want to use the Scriptures and modern financial guidance to show you how to give. We are looking to establish a personal finance educational ministry that helps you become financially free AND connects your heart to the heart of our God.

WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

1. Because all I have is God's, I am only a manager of His resources

Luke 16:1-9; Ex. 19:5-6; Job 41:11; Ps. 24:1; Hag. 2:8; Dt. 8:18; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

- a. We are held accountable for how we use our lives and our possessions

Romans 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; Mt. 25:14-30

2. My heart is attached to my treasure – beyond my needs, you see what I treasure by how I spend my money

Mt. 6:19-21, 24

- a. There is something about money and the numbers that you can't argue with. We can talk as spiritual as we want...
- b. I will move heaven and earth to get at what I treasure
- c. Giving shapes my heart

3. Greed/unqualified accumulation is condemned in the Bible

- a. 14 times hell is mentioned in the NT; 12 of them by Jesus. 2 examples of people sent directly to hell deal with "hoarding"

Luke 12:13-21 – "rich fool"

Luke 16:19 – "rich man and Lazarus"

You cannot serve both God and money – Mt. 6:24

4. Generosity is a key feature of my discipleship to Jesus

- a. Act of worship (Rom. 12:1-2)
- b. Salvation is holistic (everything is spiritual)
- c. We strip money of its power and live in freedom

5. It shows my appreciation to God.

- a. We give b/c he gave to us (2 Cor. 8:9, 9:15; Gen. 4:4)
- b. It is all grace to us. We give b/c we are blessed, not to get blessed (example of Abraham in Hebrews 7:6 cf. Gen. 14:20/Jubilee/gleaning)
- c. We are to give the first fruits (Lev. 27:30; Prov. 3:9)

6. "We are hard pressed to find a teaching on money that doesn't emphasize giving"

WHY TO THE CHURCH?

1. Regular part of church life

- a. 1 Cor. 16; 2 Cor. 8-9; Rom. 15

* Note Paul doesn't just talk to the rich members – all are called to participate

2. To demonstrate I "treasure" the church

3. Demonstrates "resurrection life"

Acts 2:42; 4:32; 1; Cor. 16:1

*a new countercultural community

5. Support the ministry of the local church

(Gal. 6:6; 1 Cor. 9:1-15)

- a. Building "fellowship" – common investment
- b. Building a community that says "no," your life is not about the accumulation of stuff

6. It is impossible to disciple consumers

***2 WAYS TO GIVE: OUR GATHERINGS OR THROUGH E-GIVE ON OUR WEB SITE.**

What's the difference between covenant and membership?

Both models are expressions of belonging and commitment, and both are biblical. [The Old Testament refers to covenant often, and Paul develops the term 'member' in his letters.] Covenant is Genesis Church's form of membership.

Who is the covenant between—me and God or me and Genesis Church?

Both. As one people, we covenant with God. As a local expression of God's church, we covenant together with each other. This means we covenant with each other and with God.

Why should someone covenant with Genesis Church?

The ultimate question here is, "Why should someone be part of a church?" Committing your life to Christ, to others in community, and to bringing the healing of Jesus to the world is what it means to be church. Formally participating in covenant is a way of declaring that this commitment to Christ and His church is a serious reality in your life.

How do I begin my Covenant?

Although you can covenant with the Genesis at any time throughout the year, Covenant agreements are annual and take place mid-August to mid-September. It is a time of focused reflection on what it means to embody our shared values as a community. At this time, our existing Covenant Community is invited to re-affirm covenant, and others are invited to affirm covenant for the first time. Any follower of Christ [13 years of age or older*] is invited into covenant with Genesis through the following procedure:

1. Prayerfully consider what you are signing and prayerfully interact with others who are already in covenant at Genesis.
2. Personally commit to embodying our shared values in the covenant.
3. Sign the Covenant Agreement and submit it during a Genesis Service.

**Persons 13 years of age and older are eligible to enter into Covenant; however, you must be 18 years of age or older to give input at meetings.*

Covenant Members keep each other accountable in loving relationships of mutual submission. Served by leadership, gatherings, serving groups, and other forms of community, we take care of one another and help each other to live the way of Jesus.

A Covenant Member is also eligible to engage in determining the business of the church: in particular, by receiving regular updates from and by participating in dialogue with the Leadership Teams, by serving, giving, by taking part [when applicable] in the Elder nomination process, by voting on the recommended Elder Team and other matters, and by affirming the proposed budget when these matters are appointed.

Together we covenant to value:

PEOPLE {People are God’s treasure.}

FAMILY {Family is important.}

SCRIPTURE {Scriptures are God’s very Word given to us.}

PRAYER {The power to tap supernaturally into a super natural God.}

REST & SIMPLICITY {God designed us to live in a certain rhythm.}

TOGETHERNESS {We were created as communal beings.}

PREPARATION, CREATIVIY, EXCELLENCE {We must engage others with the best we have.}

PLAY & RECREATION {God designed us to enjoy life.}

I covenant with Genesis Church.

I am reaffirming Covenant

I am a new Covenant Member

Please Print All Information

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Household) _____ (Cell) _____

Email _____

Birthday (Month) _____ (Day) _____ (Year) _____

Signature _____

{This Covenant will expire August 2011}