



REDEEMER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

CHURCH COVENANT



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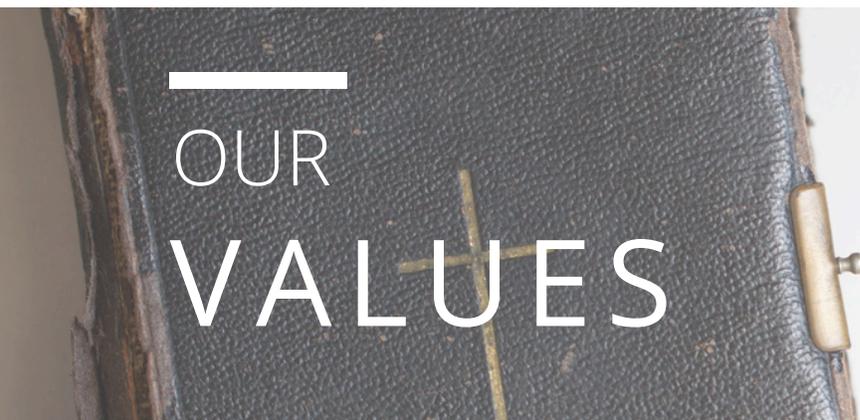
Redeemer Fellowship Church exists to be a gathering place for the body of believers in Evansville, IN to worship God, hear the Word of God preached, disciple one another, and send one another out to share the gospel with the lost. The Apostle Paul defines the nature of the church in Ephesians 2:19-22, "So then you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit." Paul does not define the church as merely a physical structure or social club. Rather, he clearly states a church is a *community of saints put together by God* as His dwelling place in the Spirit. God's Word provides a blueprint to the proper structure of a church.

". . . In him you are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit."

It is our desire to be a healthy church built on Christ as the cornerstone. We believe the gospel calls us to a Christ-centered church method. As such, we value Christ above all things. He determines what is important, not us. The gospel of Christ is central in all that we say and do and in how we conduct ourselves as His Bride, the Church. A church's values communicate their identity. Everything a church does will project what it values.

Our values as a church are Christ, Character, Community, and Commission.

- **Christ** - Everything that Redeemer Fellowship does should reflect Christ and, thereby, He receives all glory from our actions.
- **Character** - A collection of people who are transformed and filled by the Holy Spirit results in Christ-centered character.
- **Community** - Christ said the world will know Him by our love for one another. Our unity as one people in Christ demonstrates the beauty of the gospel to our community.
- **Commission** - Christ commissioned His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. A church that is Christ-centered is driven to fulfill Christ's commission by reflecting Christ and following His command to share the gospel with those who have not heard, both locally and abroad.



OUR
VALUES

Redeemer Fellowship Church is a group of diverse Christians, who share a common identity in Jesus Christ. We desire to glorify God and proclaim His Gospel throughout Evansville and to the ends of the earth.



OUR MISSION

Mission Statement

REDEEMER FELLOWSHIP EXISTS AS A CHURCH TO BUILD A LEGACY OF FAITH BY LOVING PEOPLE AND PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST TO OUR COMMUNITY, OUR NATION, AND THE WORLD.

God has called Redeemer Fellowship Church to a particular place and mission on the west side of Evansville, IN.

“... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,”

Our mission is to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Eph 4:12). Because of this, it is our hope to see every saint that attends Redeemer Fellowship Church grow to maturity in Christ and use their God-given gifts for the glory of God and the edification of His Church.

God has not only called us to spur one another on to love and good works, but to humbly teach the gospel to people and celebrate their reconciliation with their eternal Father. He has also called us to engage the issues that take place within the culture, city, and world around us with the gospel of Christ. Jesus came not only to redeem people, but to give *everlasting hope in the conflicts of our age*. We look forward to the day when Jesus establishes His kingdom and makes all things new.

OUR BELIEFS

BASED ON THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE 2000 &
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFESSION OF FAITH

THE BIBLE

We believe that the Bible, made up of Old and New Testaments, was written by men who were divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is God's revelation of Himself to man and is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible book of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.

GOD

We believe in one God, eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—one in being, essence, and nature. All three persons of the Trinity are equal and hold the same attributes. God is the Creator of the universe. He has always existed, without change and without beginning or end. He is wise, holy, absolute, loving, gracious, merciful, forgiving, compassionate, and just.

JESUS

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is truly man and truly God. We believe that Jesus accomplished our redemption through His perfect life, His death on the cross in our place, and His physical resurrection from the dead. We believe that Christ ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of the Father where He intercedes on our behalf. We believe one day Jesus will return to judge all humanity and establish His kingdom on Earth. He will rule and reign forever.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the agent in conversion and baptizes all Christians into the universal Church. Upon conversion, the Holy Spirit indwells believers and seals them until Christ's return.

HUMANITY

We believe that God has created all humans in His image and He has created them uniquely male and female. Since all humans are created in God's image, all human life is sacred.

We believe that humanity was originally innocent of sin, but man's original parents, Adam and Eve, sinned against God. Through Adam, we have inherited this disease of sin and all human beings are now corrupt by nature, enslaved, and dead in sin. As a result, we are unable to please God or come to God apart from His grace.

SALVATION

We believe that all of humanity is sinful and needs salvation. We believe salvation is a gift of God. Salvation is brought to humans through Grace alone and is received through personal faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is not temporary and cannot be lost. A true Christian is kept forever by God's power.



OUR VISION

A VISION IS THE IDEAL FUTURE OF AN ORGANIZATION. WE AIM TO ACCOMPLISH A UNIQUE VISION.

OUR VISION IS TO BE THE BEST TRAINING GROUND FOR KINGDOM IMPACT.

Christ is the Supreme Head of the Church, assisting and defending Her from all assaults, errors, troubles, and persecutions. God's Word establishes the offices that humbly serve the body with love, patience, and faithfulness. Everything that is spoken or done by an elder or teacher must be judged solely in light of the words of Christ the Lord. The Bible lays out two defined roles that should lead and serve the church. These church-appointed offices are the **Eldership** and the **Deaconship**. Each are indispensable to the health of the church.

Elders share among each other the responsibility to lead, shepherd, teach, and protect the church. They act as humble stewards to their King and faithful servants to their congregation. They are men who are qualified to govern, equip, serve, and build up Christ's Church. Each Elder brings a unique set of gifts and abilities to meet the needs of the church. They are all of equal rank and authority, and one does not have a higher standing over the others. Elders lead as one team, in unison, with distinctions in abilities and strengths which help determine areas of responsibility and authority.

Deacons, who are individuals full of the Spirit and wisdom, are tasked to serve the basic needs of the church. Their focus is to serve and meet the temporal demands of the Body; this frees the Elders to focus their efforts on prayer and the ministry of God's Word. Additionally, Deacons serve the body by helping to preserve unity among the people. In Acts, we see the first displays of this office. The Apostles tell the church to choose seven men from among them who can help serve the church so they (the Apostles) could devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

Deacons and Elders perform two distinct roles that together preserve the Bride of Christ. Neither the office of Deacon nor the office of Elder is more important than the other. Both are indispensable to the life and health of the Church. If the Deacons struggle in their roles, then the church and the Elders struggle. If the Elders struggle in their roles, then the church and the Deacons struggle. Thus, it is absolutely essential for the Church to appoint qualified Elders and Deacons to faithfully execute their responsibilities in a manner worthy of Christ.



OUR
LEADERSHIP



Our views on

BAPTISM & LORD'S SUPPER

Baptism is a physical sign of a spiritual reality. Paul writes in Romans 6:1-4 that baptism symbolizes our spiritual death and burial with Christ and our spiritual resurrection with Him. We believe the Bible also instructs the Church to practice believers' baptism. Requiring all members to be baptized after saving faith states publicly that the individual's heart has been transformed by the Spirit of God and identifies that person as a new creation in Christ. Baptism, as expressed in the Scriptures, is by immersion, which is, therefore, the method of baptism practiced at Redeemer Fellowship. Baptism by immersion means to dip someone completely under the water.

The Lord's Supper is a regular action of the Church, during worship, that expresses unity, fellowship, remembrance of Christ's sinless life and atoning death, proclamation of Christ's death, resurrection, and return. Additionally, it expresses confession of sin through self-examination. Continual repentance and belief are required for participation. If someone has shown an unrepentant heart or disbelief, he or she would be barred from the table of the Lord. At Redeemer, we also believe that the Lord's Supper is for members or those pursuing membership in a local church body.



CHURCH COVENANT

A covenant is an agreement between two parties. It is the way a community expresses their commitment to one another. The Redeemer Fellowship Church Covenant is the document that is signed and affirmed by all members detailing what we believe, how we will conduct ourselves both publicly and privately, and is the standard by which we hold each other accountable.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (Jn 13:34)

I Covenant to Gather.

My faith in Christ will be evident through my regular participation in: corporate worship services, members meetings, growth groups, outreach events, fellowship events, etc. (Psalm 119:97, 105; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25).

I Covenant to Grow.

I will be devoted to gathering with other members of Redeemer for the purpose of encouragement, discipleship, accountability, and growing in maturity in Christ. I will also endeavor to maintain a close relationship with the Lord through regular personal Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of the other spiritual disciplines. (1 Tim. 4:16, 2 Tim. 2:15, 1 Thess. 5:17, Acts 2:42, 46).

I Covenant to Go.

I agree to come alongside the community of Redeemer Fellowship Church as we faithfully carry out the Great Commission in Evansville, Indiana, and to the ends of the earth. I recognize that this will be accomplished through prayer, sharing the Gospel with those around me, and, if possible, by going to the nations. If I cannot go, I agree to support those who go with prayer and with other means as the Lord allows. (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Romans 10:14-15).

I Covenant to Give.

I will strive to properly manage the resources God has given me including: my time, body, gifts and talents, attitudes, finances, and possessions. This includes regular and consistent giving to Redeemer Fellowship that is sacrificial and cheerful in order to support the ministry and expenses of Redeemer Fellowship, to relieve the poor, and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. I also agree to invest my time through my spiritual gifts. (Proverbs 3:9-10, Romans 12:1-8, Galatians 5:13, Galatians 5:22-26, Ephesians 4:1-16, Ephesians 5:15-18, 1 Corinthians 12:7-31, 1 Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 8-9, 2 Corinthians 8:3, 1 Peter 4:10-11).



MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

1. I am a Christian who has been saved from my sins by the grace of Jesus Christ. I have been baptized to give testimony of my identification with the body of Christ and obedience to the Scriptures.

2. I agree that I am in harmony with the Redeemer Fellowship Statement of Faith and will express to the Eldership areas of doctrine where I do not agree. I covenant not to publicly or privately ridicule, seek to undermine, or create division, regarding the doctrine of Redeemer Fellowship. (Hebrews 13:7, 17; Ephesians 4:1-3, 1 Tim. 4:6, 1 Tim. 6:20, Proverbs 6:16-19).

3. I will seek to honor God by building up and encouraging the body of believers at Redeemer Fellowship— refraining from speaking or acting in a manner that would harm the reputation or well-being of God's church and/or its individual members. (1 Pet. 4:15, 1 Thess. 5:11, Eph. 4:29).

4. I will submit myself to the leadership of Redeemer Fellowship (Hebrews 13:17) and to the discipline of the congregation, public or private, in those cases where it is deemed

biblically necessary by the Elders (Matthew 18:15-20). I hereby give informed consent that public discipline may be instituted to any member of Redeemer Fellowship.

5. I covenant to submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). God enabling me, I will strive to consider my commitment to this Membership Covenant on a yearly basis.

- I understand that it is an evaluative tool, as well as an affirmation of my continuing conviction and purpose. My responsibility will be to notify at least one of the Redeemer Fellowship Elders if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Redeemer Fellowship.
- If at any time I am no longer willing or able to commit to this covenant, I will notify at least one of the Elders at Redeemer Fellowship.

Signature: _____

Date: _____