

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, STOCKPORT

COVENANT OF MEMBERSHIP # 2

We recognise our responsibilities

1) To contend together for the faith of the gospel, striving by all means to defend and declare the doctrines of Scripture, and particularly those doctrines preached and held in common among us; seeking together to avoid causes of division and to deal appropriately with those who by introducing strange doctrines, cause such division.

Why does this come first in the list?

1 Timothy ch 3 vs 14

“Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth”.

Paul shows why it so vital for Christians to act rightly in the church.

Reason 1 - it’s God’s house

Reason 2 - it’s the pillar and foundation of the truth.

What does the covenant say?

we have to

contend together for the faith of the gospel

strive by all means

defend the doctrines of Scripture

deal with people who introduce strange doctrines

declare the doctrines of Scripture

Six key passages

1. Philippians ch 1 vs 27. “*Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you, or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel, without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you*”.

2. Jude 1: 1- 3. “*To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago, have secretly slipped in among you...*”

3. Acts ch 20 vs 28 to 31. “*Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you, and will not spare the flock. Even from among your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!*”

4. 2 Thessalonians ch 3 vs 14. “*If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed*”.

5. Romans ch 16 vs 17: “*I urge you brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions, and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have received. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery, they deceive the minds of naive people.*”

6. Matthew 28:19-20: “*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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*”.