

# Membership Covenant 2024

Prevailing Word Pavilion Church      "...a place for those who don't do church..."

(a part of the Prevailing Word Pavilion Vision series)

## OUR INTENTION

At Prevailing Word Pavilion we are committed to the plan of Jesus for building his church upon the rock and the gates of hell not prevailing against it (Matthew 16:18). We are committed to reaching our community in a way that has never been done before. To do this will require covenant commitment. Members must be committed to the local church and the great commission of Jesus Christ. Our membership covenant is simply for understanding our vision and your commitment to it.

## OUR VISION

A vibrant Bible church built upon the rock, teaching and preaching faith, prosperity, and success motivation to this generation.

## OUR MISSION

Teaching people how to live happily, and successfully.

## OUR VALUES

- Faith
- Happiness
- Prosperity
- Success
- Motivation
- Positivity

## THE FAITH COMMITMENT

The very nature of faith demands commitment. A commitment to our Membership Covenant is simply a faith commitment. A covenant is defined by Webster's Dictionary as 1: a usually formal, solemn, and binding agreement. 2: a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties, especially for the performance of some action.

One of the results of our modern seeker-sensitive church movement is that we have lowered the bar of covenant expectation from members. Most churches today have a 50% show rate regarding service attendance. Jesus expects a covenant commitment to His Body from each member of His Body, the Church.

Membership Commitment is the key to local Church health. The turnover of members weakens the local church. The Membership Covenant closes the back door of the local church resulting in nurturing and protection for members manifesting in retention, and growth.

At PWP, we expect active church membership. Active members do four important things consistently:

1. They contribute
2. They support other members
3. They function in the body (serve)
4. They depend on other members

Jesus warned against excuses for not being active or showing up in Luke 14 (New International Version).

16 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' 18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' 19 "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' 20 "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' 21 "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' 22 "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' 23 "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. 24 I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'" Luke 14:16-24 (NIV)

Jesus didn't accept excuses for not showing up. Excuses for not showing up for church are simply scapegoats.

Here are some common excuses in today's world regarding attendance:

1. Culture
2. Busy life
3. Moving around
4. Family time
5. Work
6. Comfort

The fact is that these are just excuses. Jesus warned against the attitude of seeking comfort in this world, particularly as a sign of the times.

"And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." 20 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Matthew 8:19-20

#### THE AGE OF COMFORT

Comfort is an idol for many people, especially in Western society. Everything is easy, fast, and convenient. The problem with our passion for comfort is that we make it a higher priority than Jesus did. Jesus warned the religious teacher in Matthew 8:19-20 that He didn't have the comfort of a permanent home. The bottom line is...

If we are going to follow Jesus, we must be willing to be uncomfortable.

Having comfort is a blessing. I love sitting in my reclining coach, but sometimes if I sit too long it is hard for me to get up. The same is true of our lives. If we make comfort too high of a priority then we will not be willing to fully obey what Jesus is telling us to do.

Now, not everyone is called to be nomadic like Jesus or go live in a hut in Africa, but we all are called to be willing to do whatever God is leading us to.

The most fruit comes when we embrace the least comfortable situations. People in sales know that the uncomfortable moment of asking for a sale is the most fruitful. Often when God gets us out of our comfort zone, we see Him use us most and we feel most alive!

### Family First or Jesus First?

Many today are declaring "Family is first!" Is that so...?

"Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead." Matthew 8:21-22

"Family first" is a popular phrase. But even family can become an idol if it is put in front of God. Don't get me wrong, I think family should be the number one priority after God, but if you put your family before your relationship with God it creates all kinds of problems.

I believe many people who are called don't answer the call for this reason. The pressures parents often put on their children who have decided to go on mission trips are enormous. Putting family before Jesus will hurt you and them in the long run.

Here's the truth, The best thing you can do for your family is to lead them to follow Jesus above all! Church Covenant membership requires a God-first commitment followed by a commitment to your family.

### Our Seven (7) I Am Commitments:

I AM committed to Jesus Christ, my Lord, Savior, and King!

I AM committed to the Word of God and I will keep it first place in my life!

I AM committed to love and to serving the local church, Prevailing Word Pavilion.

I AM committed to financially supporting Prevailing Word Pavilion with tithes and offerings.

I AM committed to the Prevailing Word Pavilion Vision, Mission, and Values.

I AM committed to the Great Commission of Jesus, which is making disciples of all.

I AM committed to my God first, my family second, and then my church for life!

I submit myself today according to the Word of God as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ at the Prevailing Word Pavilion.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print \_\_\_\_\_