

Grace Bible Church of Bakersfield

Application for Church Membership

PERSONAL & CONTACT INFORMATION

Today's Date _____

Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Marital Status _____

Anniversary _____ Spouse's Name _____

CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Membership Questionnaire

SALVATION & BAPTISM

Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? Yes No Unsure

Have you been baptized since you professed faith in Christ? Yes No

If yes, church and date: _____

CHURCH HISTORY

How long have you been attending Grace Bible Church and for what reason did you first attend? _____

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Were you a member or regular attender of another church before coming to Grace Bible Church? Yes No

If yes, please complete the following:

Name of Church _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Pastor's name _____ Church Phone _____

Attendance from _____ to _____

Reason for leaving: _____

Were you in good standing with your previous church? Yes No

Have you ever been under church discipline? Yes No

MEMBERSHIP AT GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

Why do you want to join Grace Bible Church? _____

Have you thoroughly read the Grace Bible Church Doctrinal Statement and our By-Laws? Yes No

Do you understand and agree with them? --> Doctrinal Statement Yes No By-Laws Yes No

If you have any areas of misunderstanding or disagreement, please state briefly what they are. _____

Please describe, in your own words, your understanding of "submission to the loving rule of the elders over you" (Hebrews 13:17). _____

Are you willing to submit to that loving rule? Yes No

Please list the areas of ministry within Grace Bible Church in which you are interested in serving. _____

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PERSONAL TESTIMONY

The questions below will help guide you through a presentation of your personal testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. If you need more room, feel free to use another sheet and attach it to this application.

Briefly, what was your life like before you were saved? _____

How did you become a Christian? _____

Briefly, what has your life looked like since you came to Christ? _____

What is the Gospel? _____

Who is Jesus Christ? _____

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Membership Covenant

Having been graciously brought to repentance by the mercy of God, having believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and having been baptized upon profession of faith, I desire formal membership at Grace Bible Church. Recognizing that the purpose of the church as expressed in Colossians 1:28 is to proclaim Christ and bring his people to obedient maturity in Christ, I covenant to do the following (based primarily on the text of Romans 12:9–21).

Article 1: Authentic Love

I covenant . . .

- **...to love the body of Christ with a whole heart**, without hypocrisy, based on the commonality of the gospel of Christ, to have genuine heart-felt affection for the members and leaders with brotherly affection, endeavoring to outdo one another in showing honor.
- **...to love with a welcoming heart**, seeking to show hospitality. I will be welcoming to guests, to friendships old and new, and to the unbeliever in need of the gospel.
- **...to love with a vulnerable heart** by rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. I will endeavor to be real, vulnerable, accessible, and accountable.
- **...to love with a selfless heart**, never repaying evil for evil, but seeking what would be honorable in the sight of all. I will place the welfare of the church before my own and seek the good of the whole body.

Article 2: Purposeful Christlikeness

I covenant...

- **...to live in joy**, rejoicing in my current and future hope in Christ. I will manifest this in choosing not to complain, in speaking of my hope and joy in the Lord, in deflecting praise for myself and honoring the Lord, and in modeling Christian joy to others.
- **...to suffer in faith**, being patient in tribulation. I will endeavor to grow in my trust in God during times of trial and to emulate patiently seeking Christ and finding strength in Him.
- **...to speak in blessing**, not using my tongue to tear others down, but rather blessing even those who may persecute me. I will endeavor to think and speak the best of my brothers and sisters in the Lord.
- **...to act in obedience**, overcoming evil with good. I will endeavor to live life and make decisions based on the standards of Scripture rather than emotion or personal desires as a reflection of my love for Christ.

Article 3: Enthusiastic Body Life

I covenant...

- **...to attend with enthusiasm**, having a zeal to be with the church at every possible opportunity. I will endeavor to take charge of my spiritual growth by constant communion with the church.
- **...to fellowship with enthusiasm**, making a conscious decision to be fervent in spirit, thankful for the joy of communion with the saints.
- **...to serve with enthusiasm**, using my spiritual gifts for the sake of the church as a fellow servant of Christ, seeking to selflessly meet the needs of the ministry for the sake of the church as a fellow servant of Christ, even if my service is not in my favorite area of ministry.
- **...to pray with enthusiasm**, being constant in prayer for the needs and ministries of the church. I will endeavor to do spiritual battle at the throne of grace on behalf of Christ's kingdom as represented in our church.

- **...to give with enthusiasm** according to my means, supporting financially the preached word of God, the stewardship of property, special projects of the church, local and global missions, and charitable needs within the church. I will not be selfish by receiving spiritual food without sharing in the material cost.

Article 4: Active Discipleship

I covenant...

- **...to learn with eagerness**, taking advantage of the learning and growth opportunities available, first and foremost the regular expository preaching presented each week. I will endeavor to grow in the knowledge and love of Christ and to deepen my understanding of the Word of God and sound doctrine.
- **...to learn with humility**, eager to be a disciple of Christ who listens well, respects those who are teaching me, and listens with the goal of personal sanctification rather than critical evaluation.
- **...to learn with worship**, focusing the knowledge I am gaining into all that gives more glory to God as I learn of His attributes and His glorious Scripture.

Article 5: Humble Submission

I covenant...

- **...to have a high regard for Scripture**, abhorring what is evil and holding fast to what is good. The local church is unified under its doctrinal statement, a reflection and summary of the theology of Scripture. I will live under the doctrinal statement of Grace Bible Church, either in full agreement or without discord in any area I believe differently.
- **...to have a biblical regard for self**. I will endeavor to not be haughty, but to associate with the lowly, to not see myself as different, special or above others. I will be fully committed to this local body of believers as truly a part, not an aloof observer.
- **...to have an obedient regard for shepherding**. I will submit to the elders or those appointed by elders in areas of ministry, personal sanctification, and church-wide programs, recognizing their God-given duty and authority. I will endeavor to obey Hebrews 13:17, to "obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls."
- **...to have a loving regard for leaders**, endeavoring to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. I will endeavor to have a genuine affection, appreciation, and thankful heart for my leaders, those who feed my soul the Word of God (1 Thess 5:12-13).

May the love of God the Father, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the help of the Holy Spirit unite and join us in love.

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Please return your application to an elder or deacon.

For Board of Elders Only

[illegible]

Elder's Signature _____

Approval Date: _____/_____/_____