

**“THE BONDING OF
A CHURCH”**

LBCF 26.06

REVIEW

- 1. There is a universal, invisible church consisting of all who have been, are, or will be saved.**
- 2. Visible, local churches are subsets of this larger, invisible church. Therefore, all members of local churches should be saved, regenerated believers.**
- 3. Visible, local churches are never perfect. When a church begins to organize itself according to its own ideas and wishes, it begins a decline that will ultimately result in it being no true church at all.**

REVIEW

- 4. Christ alone is Head of the Church, and He is the only One who has the right to tell us how the church should worship, and be organized.**
- 5. Christ calls His people, and commands us to join into churches for our mutual edification and for worship.**
- 6. Joining a particular church is by willing consent and mutual submission.**

ERBC CHURCH COVENANT

“Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord; and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.”

THE BAPTIST CONFESSION, 26.6

I.

**The members of these churches are saints
by calling,
visibly manifesting and evidencing... their obedience
(in and by their profession and walking)
unto that call of Christ;**

II.

**and do willingly consent to walk together,
according to the appointment of Christ;
giving up themselves
to the Lord,
and one to another,

by the will of God,
in professed subjection to the ordinances
of the Gospel**

I. MEMBERS ARE SAINTS

The members of these churches are saints by calling, visibly manifesting and evidencing... their obedience

**unto that call of Christ;
(in and by their profession and walking)**

- **Who are members? Who are not?**
- **“Secret Agents?”**
- **How?**
 - **1.**
 - **2.**

I. MEMBERS ARE CALLED SAINTS

- **Scriptures:**

- **1 Corinthians 1:2** — “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints....”

- **Romans 1:1, 6, 7** — “Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, **called** *to be* an apostle..., you also are the **called** of Jesus Christ.... to all who are in Rome, beloved of God, **called** *to be* saints....”

(Q: Did Jesus “invite” Saul to become an apostle?)

- **“called”** — Rom. 8:28; 1Cor. 1:24; Jude 1:1; Rev. 17:14

II. MEMBERS WILLINGLY CONSENT TO WALK TOGETHER

“and do **willingly consent** to **walk together**,
according to the **appointment of Christ**;
giving up themselves
to the Lord,
and one to another,

by the will of God,
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of the Gospel

II. MEMBERS WILLINGLY CONSENT TO WALK TOGETHER

- **Scriptures:**

- Acts 2:41 - “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”
- Acts 5:13-14 - “Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women....”

II. MEMBERS WILLINGLY CONSENT TO WALK TOGETHER

- **Scriptures:**

- 2Corinthians 9:13 - “through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men”
- “It was a sufficient token for proving the love of the Corinthians, that they were so liberal to brethren that were at a great distance from them. Paul, however, extends it farther — to their concurrent obedience in the gospel. For by such proofs we truly manifest that we are obedient to the doctrine of the gospel. Now their concurrence appears from this: that alms are conferred with the common consent of all.” — Calvin

II. MEMBERS WILLINGLY CONSENT TO WALK TOGETHER

- **Scriptures:**

- 2Thessalonians 1:1, 3-4 — “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ... We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God....”
- Romans 12:5 — “so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ; and each one, members of one another.”

DOCTRINE & APPLICATIONS

- **Joining a church is not a choice; which church you join is.**
- **Joining a church is a matter of “giving yourself up” — a solemn promise to God and to the church.**
- **Joining a church and “walking together” is but a consequence of believing the Gospel.**