

BEREAN BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTICLES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Church Membership

In the New Testament church, the Bible teaches us that those who were saved and baptized were added to the church (Acts 2:41-47). At Berean Bible Baptist Church, we desire to follow this biblical example that God has given to us. Therefore, in order for someone to become a member of Berean Bible Baptist Church, we require that they first be saved and then baptized, following the example laid forth in Scripture.

SALVATION:

HAVE YOU BEEN BORN AGAIN?

John 3:7 "marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again"

When we use the word "saved," we mean that a person is saved by only the grace of God (Titus 3:5). Being "saved" is when someone realizes that they are a sinner, and that they can do nothing of their own merits to redeem themselves of their sins. Then, when they realize their desperate spiritual condition, they ask Jesus Christ to be their Saviour and forgive them from their sins. A person who is "saved" is someone who has put their complete trust in the work of Jesus Christ. Relying solely on His death, burial, and resurrection to redeem them from all unrighteousness.

BAPTIZED:

HAVE YOU BEEN BIBLICALLY BAPTIZED?

Acts 8:36 "...see here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized?"

According to the Bible, when someone is baptized they are fully immersed in water. Also, according to the Bible, there were never any babies Baptized. Biblical baptism comes after someone has received Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and has the desire to follow the Lord's example and command. Baptism has nothing to do with a person's salvation. However, baptism is the beginning step in a Christian's obedience to Christ. Also baptism, in the New Testament, was done before witnesses then they were added to the church. Although no one needs to be baptized to be saved, it is required for someone to become member of Berean Bible Baptist Church.

TESTIMONY:

PLEASE SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY OF SALVATION AND BIBLICAL BAPTISM.

Psalms 107:2 "let the redeemed of the Lord say so..."

On the following lines, please write a brief testimony of your salvation. If possible, please include details such as date, where you were, how old you were, who led you to Christ, and any other information you remember about the time when Christ saved you.

*Membership to Berean Bible Baptist Church can be revoked, or denied, at the sole discretion of the Pastor of the church. Reasons for denial, or revocation, could include unrepentant, immoral, and/or unethical behavior, Including, but not specific to: fornication, homosexuality, adultery, sowing discord, et al. The pastor and deacons of Berean Bible Baptist Church reserve the sole right to determine what is immoral, and unethical behavior, when dealing with membership revocation or membership denial.

2. Benefits of Membership

A PLACE OF SERVICE:

Josh 24:15 "but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Berean Bible Baptist Church is a great place to serve the Lord. There are many opportunities in this ministry to do great things for God. It is God's desire for every Christian to be working in, and through their local Bible believing church. His design is to use His church to accomplish His will. He created many positions in the church to bring glory to Him. He placed Pastors, Deacons, Evangelists, and the rest of Christians to be able ministers of His great work. We desire, as the Lord desires, that all things in the church be done decently and in order. We highly value the leadership of our church, and believe that our leaders are ministers of God. Your membership entitles you to the benefit of having a place to serve the Lord.

A PLACE OF GROWTH:

1 Peter 2:2 "...desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"

Berean Bible Baptist Church is a place where you will grow in God's Word. Not only is this a Bible believing church, it is also a bible preaching, and teaching church. The bible is placed at the pinnacle of authority in this body of believers. Every service is a lesson straight from the Holy Scriptures. It is a place where both the newly saved, and the seasoned veterans of God's Word can learn, and grow in their knowledge of the Bible, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Your membership entitles you to the benefit of growing under sound Bible teaching.

A PLACE OF SUPPORT:

Gal 6:10 "let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith"

Berean Bible Baptist Church is also a place to support you and your family. We know that even good Christians go through times of trials. Sometimes God uses these trials to test us. Other times, Satan is buffeting us. Either way, the local church is in place to help Christians in their time of need. Whether the need is a financial one, or whether it is a spiritual one, the assembly of the church is here to help build up the believers, and minister to them in their time of need. People who are not members of BBBC do not necessarily have the benefit receiving help from the church. Your membership entitles you to the benefit of getting the help and support you need from your church family. If help is needed from the church body, the pastor and deacons always reserve the right to determine the validity of the individuals need and they will decide the appropriate course of action to help those families in need.

3. Ministry Requirements

God has a very high standard for those who choose to serve him. One example is the high standard that He holds Bishops and Deacons to in 1 Timothy chapter 3. He wants His ministers to be a good testimony to the world, and to be examples to the rest of the flock. There is also a spirit of unity that must be maintained at all times. This means that if anyone chooses to fill a leadership position at Berean Bible Baptist Church, there are key elements that must first be understood.

MEMBERSHIP:

Acts 2:47 "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"

Anyone who holds a leadership position at BBBC must be a member of BBBC for at least six consecutive months.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT:

2 Tim 3:10 "But thou hast fully known my doctrine"

Anyone who holds a leadership position at BBBC must read and accept the *BBBC Doctrinal Statement*. Any disagreements with the *BBBC Doctrinal Statement* should be discussed with the Pastor promptly, and he can decide, at his discretion, if this will affect the individual's ability to minister at BBBC. The church doctrinal statement can be found at our website, www.bereanbiblebaptistchurch.com, or a printed copy can be obtained by asking the pastor or deacons.

FAITHFULNESS:

1 Cor 4:2 "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful"

Anyone who holds a leadership position at BBBC must be faithful in all their duties. Before a person should even be considered for a leadership position, faithfulness must be in place. They should be faithful, not only in their responsibilities, but also in things like church attendance and Bible reading. If someone fails to be faithful in the small things, they will most certainly not be faithful in the big things.

DEALING WITH DISCORD:

Ps 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity"

Leadership at BBBC must always strive to be united, but we are well aware of the potential of discord among God's people. If any member disagrees with another member, or feels they have been wronged by another member, they must agree to meet with the parties involved, and the pastor, to discuss these issues. If any member disagrees with the pastor, and/or deacons, in an action, decision, or direction of the church, they must agree to meet with the pastor and the deacons to discuss the issues of concern. This follows the instruction of Christ in Matthew 18.

4. Conclude your Membership

WRITTEN/VERBAL NOTICE:

We ask that if you wish to end your membership with Berean Bible Baptist Church, that you please give a written, or verbal notice to the pastor. This will help prevent any confusion, and help to keep things decent, and in order.

EXPIRED MEMBERSHIP:

Anyone's membership can expire if the person/persons have been absent from Berean Bible Baptist Church for over three months. If a member is going to be absent for an extended period of time, please give the pastor a verbal notice, so that he is aware to keep you and your family on the membership roster. All membership expiration issues will be handled at the sole discretion of the Pastor of BBBC.

By signing below, I testify that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all that is written in the above church membership articles. By signing, I also express my desire to become a member, and would like to be considered for membership in Berean Bible Baptist Church.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____ (spouse)

Signature: _____ (spouse)

Date: _____

Please list below the children in your family that are eligible and would like to become members.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Thank you,

Berean Bible Baptist Church