

# Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila

## New Members Class

### INTRODUCTION

#### Hand Out Materials

Membership Covenant, Membership Application, What We Believe and Do Not Believe, Pastor Business Cards.

#### Important Details

- We take the issue of church membership very seriously.
- We will be “reading” through much of the lesson together. We have put our words into writing to make sure you have a copy of the subjects addressed so you can have more time to think and listen rather than trying to take notes and so you have a copy for reflection during the week.
- This class is designed to inform you about BBC and what we are all about. It is also a time for us to learn about you. Many churches simply call people forward at the end of any given service and present them as either members or membership candidates without ever informing them about what they believe or learning anything about them. We have chosen to be more thorough. We do not desire to discourage you, but rather attempt to make sure your decision to be a part of this fellowship is carefully considered.
- There is no need to feel pressured about joining our church. For those investigating, the classes are not the time to “decide”, but rather the time to ponder and consider if this is where God wants you to plug in and participate.
- At the end of this series of classes, you must turn in your application by the last meeting. You can turn in your application at any time throughout the class series to your teacher or the pastor. No one will call you about turning in your application. By turning in your application, you will be telling us that you wish to join our church at this time.

#### Our Heritage

BBC was formed as an **INDEPENDENT**, Bible Believing, Disciple-making, Baptist Church on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

The first Sunday AM Service was on July 7<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall of our sending church, the First Baptist Church of Jackson (FBCJ). FBCJ was planted in 2000. When you

# **Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila**

## **New Members Class**

consider the sending church for FBCJ, our heritage goes back to a body of born again believers from the mid 1800's.

We were planted in Tuscarawas County, on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 by the FBCJ (*also an Independent Baptist Church*) with forty-five adults, youth and children. Pastor Douglas J. Kilchenman is our founding Pastor.

Our first Sunday AM Service in Tuscarawas County was on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 in the Monroe Centre mall on the border of Dover and New Philadelphia.

There are two leadership offices in our church – Pastor and Deacon. We have two Deacons – Harry Huggins and Nate Wilson. We currently have only one pastor – our founding Pastor – Doug Kilchenman.

Every pastor, deacon and member of BBC is bound together by a scriptural membership **COVENANT**. It brings unity to our church members – Ps. 133:1; Eph. 4:3, 13.

### **The Purpose of this Class**

A traumatic problem faced by many churches today is that its members do not really understand what it means to be a part of a local New Testament church. Most people think that the “*local church*” is simply somewhere they attend, not necessarily something in which they should be an **ACTIVE** participant.

They often do not understand their role or responsibilities. Many members do not even know what their church believes about God, the Bible, and other very important **DOCTRINAL** issues. What you believe will direct what you do. Therefore, the plans and purposes of God end up secondary (at best) to their expectations of “*what will this church do for me.*”

Unfortunately, during this particular time in history, what it means to be a believer (*or follower of Christ*) has changed...at least according to what the Bible says. Churches have become **SOCIAL** organizations that are centered on fulfilling the **WANTS** of the members and their families through non-biblical activities and self-help programs, when the church should glorify God by making committed disciples of Jesus Christ, who love God's Word and who are engaging in the ministry of reaching the lost world for Christ (*Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:2*).

This class is designed to establish (*or perhaps re-establish*) the scriptural responsibilities that **EVERY** blood-washed saint is to share in and to explain the responsibilities of the church toward each individual member. You have in your possession, as of this

# **Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila**

## **New Members Class**

meeting, the basic beliefs and doctrines of our local church along with a copy of our church membership covenant.

If at anytime you have questions about these documents, life, God, or our church, please talk to one of our deacons or call the church office and speak to our pastor; he is always happy to serve you.

### **Our Church**

Bible Baptist Church

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6006, New Phila, OH 44663

Location Address: Monroe Mal – 1260 Monroe Ave NW, New Phila, OH 44663

Phone: 330-316-7096

Email: [bbcdover@gmail.com](mailto:bbcdover@gmail.com)

Website: [www.believethe bible.org](http://www.believethe bible.org)

### Office /Pastor Meeting Hours:

Pastor Doug is very flexible to schedule a meeting time that works best for you when needed.

### *Normal Office Hours for scheduling an appointment:*

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Monday    | Office closed   |
| Tuesday   | 10:00AM – 5:00PM (evenings also available upon request) |
| Wednesday | 5:30PM – 8:30PM   |
| Thursday  | 10:00AM – 5:00PM (evenings also available upon request) |
| Friday    | Call or email to check availability each week           |

# **Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila**

## **New Members Class**

### **BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT**

The following is my covenant to the Lord

Having been led by the Holy Spirit of God and brought by divine grace to surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ, to give myself wholly to Him by receiving Him as Saviour and confessing Him as Lord in baptism and testimony, I do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with God, to promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to forsake the ways of sin and to walk in Christian love and in the paths of righteousness.

I, as a member of the body of Christ, will promise to exercise mutual care toward other members; to promote the growth of the whole body in Christian knowledge, holiness and comfort; to strive with others for both the peace and purity of this, Christ's Church; to sustain its disciplines and the doctrine of the Word of God; to submit to the loving rule of its Pastor(s); to contribute as a faithful steward such time, talent and money in the measure that Christ prospers me, that the responsibility of the local church and the world-wide ministry of spreading the gospel be faithfully discharged; all this to the end that I may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

I also engage to maintain family and private devotion, to teach the Bible to my children, to seek the salvation of my family and acquaintances as well as strangers, to walk circumspectly in the world, to the end that I may win souls for the Lord Jesus Christ. I will endeavor to be a Christian example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity of life, remembering that God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love and of a sound mind, that we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, and a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

I further engage to give and receive admonition, with meekness and affection; to remember others in prayers and aid them in case of sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation (to seek it without delay) and mindful of the Scriptures; and to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return.

I moreover engage that when I move from this congregation, within one year I will involve myself with a Biblical local church where I can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God.

In surrender to God, I sign below.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila

## New Members Class

### OUR COVENANT

#### Review

Please make sure you are reading through our doctrinal statement, “*What We Believe and Do Not Believe*.” We will not take the time to work through those doctrinal issues in this class. It is your responsibility to read each point **CAREFULLY**. If you have any questions, please talk to the class teacher, deacons, or call Pastor Doug.

#### Why do we have a church covenant?

The Bible is filled with examples of God’s people entering into a **COVENANT** with Him at various times throughout history. Usually covenants were entered into when people wanted to demonstrate their seriousness toward God and His Word. At times when the whole world was going their own way, God’s people wanted to stand out and show the Lord their unwavering commitment to Him. They desired their heritage to do the same; therefore, a covenant was **AGREED** upon.

We too desire our heritage to continue on for the good. We are serious about “*what the Bible says*,” so we too have decided, as a church body, to stand by a covenant.

Please understand that these things we have agreed to in our membership covenant are **ALREADY** the scriptural responsibilities of everyone who is “*born again*.” We have simply chosen to list these things so that they are clearly understood by everyone.

Like Josiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem who stood to a covenant, to walk after the Lord, to keep his commandments, statutes, and testimonies with all their heart, and with all their soul, so the members of BBC stand to a covenant to this day. It is a source of blessing and **UNITY** (2 Kings 22:1-23:2).

Notes from **2 Kings 22:1-23:2**

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# **Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila**

## **New Members Class**

### **Our church covenant**

As we read, consider your participation in this...not only what you will **GIVE**, but also what you will **RECEIVE**.

Please understand that this agreement establishes a standard from the Word of God in which with all my heart and the power of God, I will covenant to maintain...It is **NOT** to achieve some sort of sinless perfection – that is not possible.

The age in which we live is marked by the tendency to become “lukewarm” (**Rev. 3:14-22**). It is also marked by *selfishness* and the tendency to become *self-centered* (**2 Timothy 3:1-5**). We need God's standard if we are to *turn away* from the characteristics of this age.

Throughout the following classes, we will work our way down through each of the paragraph sections and compare them to what the Bible says. You will learn what everyone else who is a *covenant member* has been taught and what they have agreed upon.

Note: If you already desire to join BBC, you can turn in your application at any time.

### **Home Bible Study notes – The Covenant of Heaven's Heart**

*God has a covenantal character. Not only can we make a covenant with Him (IE. BBC Membership Covenant), but He certainly makes some incredible promises to us...*

*...Because of God's covenantal character...I can be secure and trust Him completely (**Psalm 12:6; 56:3-4**).*

*...God's covenant shows me He has loved me unconditionally (**Ro. 5:8**).*

*...God's promises of covenant will never fail (**2 Co. 1:20**).*

*...God's covenant is solemn and binding. It is a pledge to death (**Gen. 15:1-18**).*

*...God's covenant promises are so powerful, I have birthrights (**Ro. 8:17**).*

# Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila

## New Members Class

### PARAGRAPH 1

#### Membership Covenant

*The following is my covenant to the Lord*

*Having been led by the Holy Spirit of God and brought by divine grace to surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ, to give myself wholly to Him by receiving Him as Saviour and confessing Him as Lord in baptism and testimony, I do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with God, to promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to forsake the ways of sin and to walk in Christian love and in the paths of righteousness.*

#### Notes on the Lordship of Christ

- Our promise is to the Lord and not unto men – **Mt. 5:33-37; Eph. 6:7; Col. 3:23**
- Jesus Christ is our Lord. Examine the testimony of **ALL** the other churches found in the New Testament epistles:
  - **Romans 1:1-7** –
  - **1 Corinthians 1:1-10** –
  - **2 Corinthians 1:1-3** –
  - **Galatians 1:1-3** –
  - **Ephesians 1:1-2** –
  - **Philippians 1:1-2** –
  - **Colossians 1:1-2** –
  - **1 Thessalonians 1:1-3** –
  - **2 Thessalonians 1:1-2** –

*These truths are timeless. Therefore, this Lordship confession should also be true of **ALL** the members in our church.*

**NOTE** Salvation is by **grace** through **faith**. It is based solely on the grace of God and is **not** earned by our own merit (see “salvation” in BBC doctrinal statement). Not everyone that says they are a Christian really is one. Jesus said that you know a tree by its fruit. You must also understand that you do not “make Jesus Lord” – He already is Lord! You must repent and put your faith in Him. **Romans 10:9-10,13**

# Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila

## New Members Class

### Example testimony

"I gave my heart to Jesus when I was a child...then I became involved in drugs, robbery, muggings, rape, murder, pornography..."

Question – does that seem right?

A. The fruits of someone who is soundly saved.

**Rom 7:4** ...that we should bring forth FRUIT unto God.

**Matt 7:15-20** ...by their fruits ye shall KNOW them.

1. The fruit of repentance – **Matt 3:8; Luke 19:8**
2. The fruit of good works – **Col 1:10; Titus 3:8; Matt 5:16**
3. The fruit of thanksgiving – **Heb 13:15; Eph 5:19-20; Rev 5:9-14**
4. The fruit of the Spirit – **Gal 5:22-23; Eph 5:8-9**
5. The fruit of righteousness – **Phil 1:11; Heb 12:11; Jam 3:17-18; Ps 23:3; Prov 8:20**

- Baptism and how it relates to Christ's Lordship:

The first public opportunity to demonstrate that a person has already confessed Christ as Saviour and **LORD** is through water baptism. This is our **PUBLIC** identification with Christ and our first step of obedience to His command as Lord - **Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:41; 8:34-38; 1 Peter 3:21**.

Therefore, water baptism by immersion is **REQUIRED** for membership at our particular local church. If you have not yet been scripturally baptized, why not obey God as soon as possible?

*Contact Pastor Doug to make arrangements. We will explain all the scriptural details concerning baptism. We baptize upon request, so don't wait.*

- When you become a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, every believer should:
  - **SURRENDER** to the Lord
  - Give yourself **WHOLLY** to Him
  - Forsake the ways of **SIN**
  - Walk in Christian **LOVE** and in the paths of righteousness



# Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila

## New Members Class

### Hand out material

Discipleship Vision handout

### Our Mission and Discipleship

- BBC mission statement is:

#### **OUR MISSION IS TO GLORIFY GOD BY:**

**RECONCILING** each individual to Him through His Son

**CONFORMING** them into Christ's image through His Word

**PERFECTING** them to minister His Word to the world

This is our church's main focus. Everything we do in this local church is centered on this mission. **EVERY** ministry in our church is a component of this mission.

- Our one true mission as a church, the body of Christ, is ultimately to bring **GLORY** to God – **1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 3:21**

How do we accomplish this mission?

- By living a **GODLY** life – **Ephesians 4-6**
- By bearing **FRUIT** that remains – **John 15:8**

*Evangelism*

*Edification of believers*

This is called being a “**DISCIPLE**” and “making disciples” or “**DISCIPLESHIP**”.

- We **evangelize** to make **disciples**. We **disciple** to make **evangelists**.

# **Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila**

## **New Members Class**

### **PARAGRAPHS 2 & 3**

#### **Membership Covenant**

*I, as a member of the body of Christ, will promise to exercise mutual care toward other members; to promote the growth of the whole body in Christian knowledge, holiness and comfort; to strive with others for both the peace and purity of this, Christ's Church; to sustain its disciplines and the doctrine of the Word of God; to submit to the loving rule of its Pastor(s); to contribute as a faithful steward such time, talent and money in the measure that Christ prospers me, that the responsibility of the local church and the world-wide ministry of spreading the gospel be faithfully discharged; all this to the end that I may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.*

*I also engage to maintain family and private devotions, to teach the Bible to my children, to seek the salvation of my family and acquaintances as well as strangers, to walk circumspectly in the world, to the end that I may win souls for the Lord Jesus Christ. I will endeavor to be a Christian example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity of life, remembering that God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love and of a sound mind, that we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, and a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.*

#### **Discipleship and our mission**

- What can I expect from the Bible Baptist Church?
  - Perfecting – **Eph. 4:12; Col. 1:28**
  - Preaching and teaching of the Word – **1 Thess. 2:1-2, 13; Acts 20:28, 32; 2 Ti. 4:1-4**
  - Godly leadership, direction and guidance – **1 Thess. 2:10; 2 Co. 4:2; 1 Ti. 4:12; 2 Ti. 3:10; Titus 2:7-8**
  - Accountability – **Eph. 4:15; Mt. 18:15-18; 1 Co. 5:1-7; 2 Ti. 4:2; Titus 2:1**
  - Love & Benevolence – **John 13:34-35; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; Eph. 5:25**; Benevolence is much more than financial aid. However, we offer financial benevolence to those truly in need. We also assist those who are not members of BBC, but they must be referred by a covenant member.

# **Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila**

## **New Members Class**

➤ Encouragement (*Comfort*) – **Eph. 4:15-16; 6:21-22; 2 Co. 1:3-4; Col. 4:7-8**

- What does the Bible Baptist Church expect from me?

➤ A **GODLY** life – That is what you are being perfected for - **1 Co. 6:19-20; 1 Ti. 4:6-8; 6:3,6,11; Titus 1:1; 2 Peter 1:3-6; 3:9-12**

➤ **INVOLVEMENT** in ministry –

➤ Faithful attendance – This keeps us all on the same spiritual page. If you do not plan on attending consistently please do **NOT** join this local church. If you do not attend consistently you will not be fulfilling the biblical mandate of **Heb. 10:24-25**.

➤ Tithes & Offerings –

➤ Mutual care, love & tolerance toward every member –

➤ Submission to leadership – **1 Peter 5:1-4**

➤ Accountability – **1 Peter 5:5**; This is a mutual accountability...no accountability leads to rebellion. Mutual accountability is crucial for every member of the church.

As born again Christians we need to understand that the purpose of the church is to glorify God. We also need to realize from *Acts 2* to *Revelation 4* everything has been done through the ministry of a local church. Therefore, being a **PARTICIPATING** member of a local church is God's plan during this age and is the responsibility of **EVERY** Christian.

The members of a local church should be united with one mind, giving, caring, obedient to Christ, strong, a **JOY** to others, and seeking to reproduce ourselves, all the while supporting and encouraging missionaries in their work. We must preach, teach, and publish the words of God to both the lost and the saved. We are the pillar and ground of the **TRUTH** – **1 Timothy 3:15**.

# Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila

## New Members Class

### PARAGRAPHS 4 & 5

#### Membership Covenant

*I further engage to give and receive admonition, with meekness and affection; to remember others in prayers and aid them in case of sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation (to seek it without delay) and mindful of the Scriptures; and to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return.*

#### Loving one to another

- **LOVING** one another

Jesus said: *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35*

Simply put, *paragraph 4* explains many easily understood ways in which we demonstrate love to one another:

- Give and receive **ADMONITION**

With few exceptions, most people do not naturally like confrontation. We do not like to give it to others, lest we offend them...we do not like to hear it about ourselves because it is very uncomfortable, so we avoid it. This is not biblical love. Your enemies will tell you what you want to hear, but a true friend will tell you what you need to hear. The Bible clearly says: *Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful - Proverbs 27:5-6.*

Do not be a superficial Christian...show true love by giving and receiving admonition. This is a critical point and avoided by most Christians, yet it is a valid and important part of church family life!

- **PRAY** for one another
- **MUTUALLY** care for each other
- Be **RESPECTFUL** of each other as individuals

# Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila

## New Members Class

- **FORGIVE** one another; always seek to reconcile differences
- **OBEY** the Scriptures
- **ENCOURAGE** one another
- **FELLOWSHIP** with/get to know one another. Talk to people; invite them to your home, be out going in this regard. It is up to you to make friends and plug into the body life.

- We must **LOVE** our brethren as the Lord loves us – **John 15:12, 17; Eph. 4:30-32**

### PARAGRAPH 5

*I moreover engage that when I move from this congregation, within one year I will involve myself with a Biblical local church where I can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God.*

### The importance of local church

- God has established three major institutions on this earth:
  - The **FAMILY**
  - The Civil Government
  - The “**LOCAL**” Church

God uses these institutions to establish order in our lives.

- It is the **LOCAL CHURCH** that has been commissioned by God to carry out His plans and purposes in reaching the **LOST** and perfecting the **SAVED**. Therefore, God's plan for a Christian will always be fulfilled best when participating in the ministry activities of a local church - Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:27; 2 Timothy 2:2.

**Always remember: The “church” is not somewhere you go, the church is something you ARE!**

# **Bible Baptist Church | Dover-New Phila**

## **New Members Class**

### **Additional details concerning membership**

- Membership applications are due at the completion of the New Members Class for those who are interested in joining the church at this time.
- *Be sure to answer all questions on the membership application as thoroughly as possible.*
- *Remember to complete and attach a copy of your salvation testimony*
- Next Steps...
  - Applications will be reviewed by Pastor Doug
  - Contacts will be made *(if necessary)*
  - Baptisms will follow *(for those who have not yet obeyed the Lord in this command)*
  - Prospective members will be presented publicly to the church one week prior to public covenant. You will be presented at the beginning of the morning service.
  - One week after being presented, all candidates will covenant publicly and become members of BBC. You will do this at the beginning of the morning service.

**If you have any questions you can call or text Pastor Doug any time at: 330-316-7096 or e-mail him at: [bbcdover@gmail.com](mailto:bbcdover@gmail.com).**