

Session Four



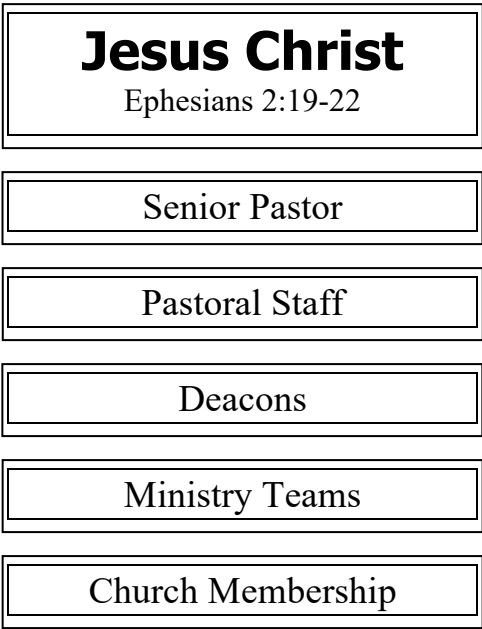
The Grassy Valley Baptist Church

Structure & Covenant

God is a God of Order.

1 Cor 14:33, 40 for God is not {a God} of confusion but of peace...But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.

How Our Church Is Structured



Pastor Led
Deacon Served
Ministry Organized
Membership Approved

Our Affiliation

- The Knox County Baptist Association has 161 churches that fellowship together and work together to reach Knox County.
- The Tennessee Southern Baptist Convention has 3,100 + churches and mission groups that fellowship together with the goal of evangelizing our state.
- The Southern Baptist Convention has over 47,530 churches that cooperate together in a world-wide effort of missions, both in North America and the world.

What is the Southern Baptist Convention?

- It is the largest association of Christian churches in Tennessee and in America. One out of every 10 churches in America is affiliated with the SBC, representing over 15 million members.
- It is the most diverse association of churches. SBC churches include every race, nationality, and ethnic group. Each Sunday, services are held in over 80 languages in the U.S. alone.
- It is one of the fastest growing groups. The SBC baptizes over 1,000 new Christians every day in the U.S. and begins nearly 5 new churches each day, as well.

Why not just an independent church?

We are an independent church. Every SBC church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there is in most other denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs. For example:

- Every SBC church chooses its own pastor.
- Every SBC church owns its own buildings and assets.
- Every SBC church determines its own programs and ministries.

What are the advantages of affiliating with the SBC?

1. It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made “creed.” The Bible is our only authority.
2. It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. Through the SBC “Cooperative Program” we help support over 8,000 missionaries in over 105 countries around the world.

What does it mean to be a member of Grassy Valley Baptist Church?

The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word:

COMMITMENT.

When someone becomes a Christian, he/she is born into the kingdom of God. So joining the church has nothing to do with salvation or eternal life.

The local church is a group of professing believers in Christ who have been baptized and organized in agreement together for the sole purpose of doing God’s will through corporate and personal ministry. Therefore the local church is a family; all families require **commitment.**

This certainly is not “works-righteousness.” We are saved by God’s grace through faith alone, but ministry is a family effort. The central **commitment** we ask of a member is to join the ministry family of Grassy Valley Baptist Church in doing God’s work.

1. A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

Eph 5:25 ...Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

2. A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our society.

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers.” Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

3. A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership simply identifies our family.

4. A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you are not committed to any specific church family.

What is expected of me as a member?

At Grassy Valley Baptist Church, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible teaches.

We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do.

As a Follower of Jesus Christ and a Family member of GVBC, I...

1. Will protect the Unity of my church...

- By acting in love toward other members
- By refusing to gossip
- By following the leaders

Rom 15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus;

1 Pet 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

Eph 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such {a word} as is good for edification according to the need {of the moment,} that it may give grace to those who hear.

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders, and submit {to them} for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

2. Will share the responsibility of my church...

- By praying for its growth and health
- By inviting the unchurched to attend
- By warmly welcoming those who visit

1Thes 1:1-2 ...to the church... We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention {of you} in our prayers;

Luke 14:23 ...'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel {them} to come in, that my house may be filled.

Rom 15:7 Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

1. Will serve the ministry of my church...

- By discovering my gifts and talents
- By being equipped to serve with my pastors
- By developing a servant's heart

1 Pet 4:10 As each one has received a {special} gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Eph 4:11-12 And He gave some {as} apostles, and some {as} prophets, and some {as} evangelists, and some {as} pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Phil 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not {merely} look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

2. Will support the testimony of my church...

- **By attending faithfully**
- **By living a godly life**
- **By giving regularly**

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging {one another} and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

Phil 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

1 Cor 16:2 On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save (as for the offering),...

Lev 27:30 'Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD.