

The Church Covenant Part II

7) *We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit,*

Every decision and action we take should be by the aid of the Holy Spirit. We rely on the Holy Spirit to help us grow in the Lord and teach us the things of God.

1Jo 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1Co 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

1Co 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

8) *to walk together in Christian love;*

This is the #1 issue with most churches in that they don't walk together in Christian love. Will there be problems and confrontations? Of course, but the Bible is clear that we as Christians are to work thru our differences for the greater cause of Christ.

2Co 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

We can't walk together in Christian love with someone that is not a born again Christian. This also is the primary cause for problems in the church. Lost people are sown into the congregation and make it impossible for fellowship to take root.

1Th 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Pro 18:21 Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

You can lift up or destroy with what you say about others in the church.

1Jo 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

1Jo 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

If you don't get joy from being around the people of God and the things of God then you are not saved.

1Jo 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

I've seen people who run the Pastor in the ground and then grin from ear to ear in the choir, clapping their hands and praising God. Don't say you love God when you hate your brother. You are lying to the church and to God.

Joh 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Loving the members of FWBT is not optional. It is a commandment from God.

Eph 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, **and love unto all the saints,**

1Th 4:9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

If you don't love the brethren, then the question must be presented as to who is teaching you?

1Pe 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another **with a pure heart fervently:**

9) to strive for the advancement of this church,

This is a very important and pivotal statement. Notice the indication of "this" church. When you join FWBT you are committed to the advancement of FWBT. Your obligation is to FWBT and no other church. Your duties are to be performed at FWBT ("this" church).

Rom 16:1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

Notice that Phebe was a servant of her local church.

1Co 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

You can't advance the church when you are divided between churches.

1Co 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

Every member of FWBT should use their spiritual gifts to help our church reach its full potential.

1Ti 3:15 But if I tarry long, that **thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God,** which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

People have to be taught how to act in order to respect God's house. We just automatically assume because we were raised in church that everyone else is. We expect someone who has never been in church before to just walk in and conduct themselves the way we do. That's not how it works. We have to live by example and show those around us how to act in the house of God.

3Jo 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth **to have the preeminence among them,** receiveth us not.

3Jo 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth *them* out of the church.

3Jo 1:11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Some people in the church have to have all of the attention. If they don't have all of the attention then they cause problems. It suddenly becomes about them and not about the betterment of the church.

1Co 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* **ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind** and in the same judgment.

The Bible says that we have the mind of Christ. The reason that the church isn't perfectly joined together is because not everyone is thinking like Christ. Before you make comments or take action, take a moment to pray and search the Scriptures to discover how the Bible instructs us to handle the situation.

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

We are constantly growing in the Lord. We are growing towards perfection and we will be perfect one day in Heaven. But while we are moving towards the mark, we should do the work of the ministry and that can only be accomplished when the local church body is edified.

2Co 6:3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:

In order to advance the church we can't misrepresent the Word of God. This is not speaking of persecution for standing for right. This is speaking of offending those around us with sinful actions that causes the work of FWBT to be hindered.

10) in knowledge,

In order to advance FWBT, each individual in this church needs to be motivated to study and learn the Word of God. While this means attending Sunday School & Wednesday night Bible study, one must also perform individual studies as well in order to grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are not yearning and longing to learn more about God then you are hindering the advancement of FWBT.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1Co 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

It's time for members of the local church to get off of the bottle....

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Mat 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

This is another reason for problems in the church. People have not stayed in the Word of God and cause problems because they don't know the Bible.

2Co 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, *to give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Phi 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

Col 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, **and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

If you want to be fruitful for the Lord you have to learn His Word.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Psa 119:66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

11) holiness,

Lev 11:45 For I *am* the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I *am* holy.

We should want to be holy because we want to be like our Heavenly Father....

1Pe 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

2Pe 3:11 Seeing then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

We should be holy because this world is not eternal but temporal.

2Co 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

We should not resemble the world. We should not want to look like the world. We should not use the world to proclaim the Gospel.

Lev 20:26 **And ye shall be holy unto me:** for I the LORD *am* holy, and have severed you from *other* people, that ye should be mine.

There should be a difference between a member of FWBT and a member of a worldly organization.

12) and comfort;

Phi 2:19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, **that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.**

Comfort doesn't mean that you are at rest. Comfort comes from knowing that your other brothers & sisters in Christ are well.

Col 4:8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

We should be concerned about others in the church.

1Th 3:2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

Too many people in the church have the mindset that comfort means that everything is alright with them. We are to be servants to others and try to comfort them. If we all were to take the position of a servant there would be less complaining in the church.

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

There are not many Christians today who comfort with words. They tear down with words.

1Th 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Comfort comes from lifting up each other in times of need.

13) to promote its prosperity

Job 36:11 If they obey and serve *him*, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

FWBT will only prosper if we obey and serve God.

Psa 35:27 Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

God has pleasure when we obey and serve Him. This does not mean that we are going to be rich financially.

Psa 122:7 Peace be within thy walls, *and* prosperity within thy palaces.

How do we achieve peace within the walls of FWBT? We obey and serve him. Prosperity always falls back on obeying and serving the Lord.

Lam 3:17 And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity.

When will FWBT have division and turmoil? When we don't obey and serve him. When people ignore what the Bible says for their own gain then division will result.

3Jo 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

If we want to be a healthy church, we must obey and serve Him.

14) spirituality;

Col 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Being spiritual requires being knowledgeable about the Word of God....

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; **teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**

Being spiritual requires having the right music....

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, **to offer up spiritual sacrifices,** acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Being spiritual requires being committed to prayer.....

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, **ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness**; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Being spiritual requires handling situations Biblically...

1Co 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, **let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord**.

Being spiritual requires believing the book...

Don't say you are spiritual if you don't meet the requirements for spirituality.

15) to sustain its worship,

How can you sustain FWBT's worship when you are never here?

Phi 3:3 For we are the circumcision, **which worship God in the spirit**, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, **and have no confidence in the flesh**.

Too many churches worship God in the flesh. We need to ensure that each one of us as individuals are at FWBT for the right reasons. We should not be here to bring attention to us but to worship the Lord.

Act 24:14 But this I confess unto thee, **that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets**:

Some people will call you a heretic for doing what is right. As long as we worship God by the book we have nothing to be ashamed of.

1Co 14:24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or *one* unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

1Co 14:25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; **and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth**.

Prophesy means to proclaim the Word of God or preach. If we have solid Biblical preaching that is based firmly upon doctrine then we will see others falling in line behind us to worship God correctly.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, **when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth**: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

We must worship God in spirit and in truth. We must have a balance of both to be an effective witness for God.

16) ordinances,

There are two ordinances that we are Biblically commanded to uphold. When we join into covenant at FWBT we agree to uphold these two ordinances. An ordinance is a

commandment in Scripture to perform a symbolic act that we are to uphold as a New Testament church.

A) The Lord's Supper

Luk 22:14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.

Luk 22:15 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:

Luk 22:16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Luk 22:17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide *it* among yourselves:

Luk 22:18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

Luk 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: **this do in remembrance of me.**

Luk 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup *is* the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

B) Baptism

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

As a Bible Believing church we must keep the ordinances to be in line with New Testament church polity. The Lord's Supper is meant to remember Jesus and his suffering while baptism is a public statement/profession that we have accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour.

17) discipline,

While we are to strive to keep harmony in the church and go to every length possible to get along, sometimes church discipline is unavoidable and in many cases needed to strengthen the church....

Mat 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Mat 18:16 But if he will not hear *thee*, *then* take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Mat 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Rom 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them which cause divisions** and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Rom 16:18 **For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly;** and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Sometimes people in the church are not there to worship God and be a servant to the others. They are there to serve themselves. This is a very selfish and does not have the church's best interest at heart.

1Co 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, *concerning* him that hath so done this deed,

1Co 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Co 5:5 **To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh**, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Sometimes we have to exercise church discipline and turn the unrepentant member over to their sin.

1Co 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

1Co 5:10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

1Co 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

1Co 5:12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

1Co 5:13 But them that are without God judgeth. **Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.**

Sometimes a member will not listen to the Word of God and do what is right. It is at that time that person has to be "put away" from the other members.

2Th 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye **withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly**, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

We are to withdraw ourselves from those that can't get along with the other members of the church. If you have problems with several people in the church, the problem probably isn't them it is you.

2Th 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

18) and doctrines;

Pro 4:2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

Any doctrine that takes you away from the Word of God is not good doctrine.

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.*

Too many Christians are still on the milk of the Word. There comes a time in your Christian life when you must move on to the meat of God's Word.

Mat 7:28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, **the people were astonished at his doctrine:**

People should realize that you know your Bible.

Act 2:42 And **they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

We must continue in doctrine and not stray.

Act 13:12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

When good doctrine is taught from the pulpit and Sunday School rooms, real salvation will take place in the hearts of people.

Rom 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

At FWBT we must obey the right doctrine.

Eph 4:14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, **and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Some people believe everything they hear. They never get grounded firmly on good doctrine.

1Ti 1:3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, **that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,**

We must guard our teachings at FWBT to ensure that no one teaches false doctrines at our church....

1Ti 1:10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

If any belief conflicts with Scripture then God is not in it....

1Ti 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

In order for FWBT to be a good minister to others, we must be firm on our doctrine.

1Ti 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

God commands us to study, preach the Word and be true to good doctrine until He returns.

2Ti 3:16 **All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, **and is profitable for doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

You are not going to be sound in your doctrine unless you stay in the book.

2Ti 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

The preacher and teachers in our church should be committed to good, sound doctrine.

Tit 1:9 **Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught**, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

We need to stay true to the Word of God.

2Jo 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, **and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God**. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

2Jo 1:10 **If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:**

One reason that false doctrines are taught is due to the fact those teaching have never been saved. This is also why you should never invite a Jehovah's Witness or Mormon into your home. If you are not firm in your doctrine they will lead you astray. They are trained to deceive.

19) to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church,

Mal 3:7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept *them*. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

Mal 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Mal 3:9 **Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me**, *even* this whole nation.

Mal 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*.

Do you give cheerfully and regularly to FWBT or do you rob God what is due Him?

Rom 15:26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

Biblical principle is to help other brethren when they are in need.

2Co 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Don't give because you have to, give because you want to.

Act 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

If you really want a blessing, give to someone who can give nothing back to you.

1Ti 5:16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

A widow indeed is a widow that has no other family to take care of them. We at FWBT can help someone like this but we are not commanded by God to. Their family should attempt to meet the need first.

2Co 8:3 For to *their* power, I bear record, yea, and beyond *their* power *they were* willing of themselves;

2Co 8:4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and *take upon us* the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

Paul was on the mission field helping establish churches...The church gave to keep him on the field...We at FWBT should wholeheartedly support missions...

2Co 8:14 But by an equality, *that* now at this time your abundance *may be a supply* for their want, that their abundance also may be *a supply* for your want: that there may be equality:

When we are in abundance we help those that are not. When others are in abundance they should help us. This is Biblical principle.

20) the relief of the poor,

Pro 14:21 He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.

Pro 14:31 He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

FWBT would not be a Biblical church that honored God if we didn't help the poor.

Psa 82:3 Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

Pro 28:27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

Psa 41:1 <To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.> Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

1Jo 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

1Jo 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1Jo 3:19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

1Jo 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

1Jo 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.

1Jo 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Deu 10:18 He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.

Deu 10:19 Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

While doctrinally these two verses are to Israel, we can see the typology in that we should also love the stranger. We were once in the trespasses of sin in this world (Egypt) and someone had compassion on us or we would not be here today.

21) and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

Mar 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

If more people would devote themselves to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ instead of negative and degrading speech about others we would probably accomplish more for Christ.

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

1Co 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

Woe unto us at FWBT if we don't propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Col 4:17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

God has entrusted to us the Gospel and we must be sure to take heed that we don't fail at this great task.

22) We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children;

Exo 18:20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, **and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.**

Is it any wonder our youth act the way they do today? There is no home training whatsoever. We have to show children the right way because they will not make the right choices on their own unless we guide them toward those right choices.

Tit 2:3 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

Tit 2:4 **That they may teach the young women to be sober,** to love their husbands, to love their children,

Tit 2:5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

The younger women have less and less Godly women to look to for help as time marches on.

Deu 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, **lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life**; but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

This is where we are in America. We have not taught our children, they don't know God, and now we are becoming a Godless nation. This was planned. This is the reason God was removed from the schoolhouse. They don't want the upcoming generation to fear and reverence God.

Lev 10:11 And that **ye may teach the children** of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

Psa 25:5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou *art* the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Psa 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

This is why we should have our children memorize Scripture.

Psa 63:6 When I remember thee upon my bed, *and* meditate on thee in the *night* watches.

We should have prayer with our children and reflect upon God at the end of the day before going to sleep.

23) to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;

Eze 3:17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

Eze 3:18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Eze 3:19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

1Th 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, **warn them that are unruly**, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.

Does that sound like God wants us to tell people when they are doing the wrong thing and making the wrong choices? That sounds like judging to me.

Luk 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, **and compel them to come in**, that my house may be filled.

Literally beg them to come with you to church.

1Ti 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

God expects us to take care of our own family both physically and spiritually.

Rev 21:4 **And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;** and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Why will God have to wipe tears from our eyes before we go into eternity?

Pro 29:16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.

Psa 91:8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Because we have just seen our friends, family and acquaintances cast into an eternal hell. How many of them will be pointing fingers at us for not warning them of hell?

24) to walk circumspectly in the world;

Circumspectly is defined as walking cautiously, watchful and on guard against surprise or danger.

1Th 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

If you have to stop and question, don't do it!

1Pe 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

1Pe 4:2 That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

All that matters in this life is if God is pleased with your actions. It doesn't matter what the world thinks of your walk.

2Co 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

If you are to be on guard in this world you must be as far away from its ways as possible. If you become too comfortable with the world, then you immediately become more suspect to danger. You will fall when you least expect it.

1Jo 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jo 2:16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1Jo 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

This verse commands us to be on guard or we will be devoured by the enemy.

1Th 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober.

If we at FWBT sleep, that is when Satan will devour us. We must be on guard at all times.

Tit 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live soberly, righteously, and godly**, in this present world;

We must be on guard and stay as close to God as possible. Remember as a child that when you were in danger you would run to your father's side. If someone else was bothering you they would immediately leave you alone. We must stay next to our Father's side and he will protect us from the enemy.

25) to be just in our dealings;

Rom 13:13 **Let us walk honestly**, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

Deu 25:15 *But* **thou shalt have a perfect and just weight**, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Mar 10:19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, **Do not steal**, Do not bear false witness, **Defraud not**, Honour thy father and mother.

Lev 19:13 Thou **shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him**: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.

If you owe someone money you need to pay them. Don't borrow money from a person and not pay them back.

Pro 20:10 Divers weights, *and* divers measures, **both of them are alike abomination** to the LORD.

Abomination means that God takes action against that sin. Just remember that you will reap what you sow. Just because you can make a quick buck doesn't mean it won't cost you in the long run.

We need to be fair in our business dealings. This does not mean you cannot make a profit but it does mean not to make an excessive profit by deceitful means.

1Th 4:6 **That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter**: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

26) faithful in our engagements,

If you say you are going to do something for someone or be somewhere, you need to fulfill your obligation.

Jam 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and *your* nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

Jam 4:15 For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

This is how you should answer every man. Never promise to be anywhere without stating, “If the Lord will”. That way if something unforeseen takes place it was probably not the will of the Lord that you be there.

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

God wants us to be faithful as Christians.

Col 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

If we keep this attitude we will be much more productive and efficient in this world.

Psa 12:1 <To the chief Musician upon Sheminith, A Psalm of David.> Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

It’s hard to find someone today that follows thru with what they say they are going to do.

Pro 20:6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

Let’s strive at FWBT to be the most faithful people in our community. Let’s be faithful in all of our appointments and engagements for the glory of God.

27) and exemplary in our deportment:

Deportment is defined as our behavior or conduct. We should conduct ourselves as Christians in the church and in the community.

1Pe 2:12 Having your **conversation honest** among the Gentiles: that, **whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.**

Even if people speak against you in the community, you continue to live a Biblical life and one day before God your good works will be revealed before all and everything they said about you will be revealed as lies.

Phi 1:27 **Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:** that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Conversation is not just your speech. This King James Bible word means every aspect of your life.

Col 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1Th 2:12 **That ye would walk worthy of God,** who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

After all Christ has done for us the least we can do is live right for Him.

1Th 4:1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us **how ye ought to walk and to please God**, so ye would abound more and more.

2Pe 3:11 *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

2Pe 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, **be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.**

How would God find you in your Christian walk if he returned today?

28) to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger;

Before covering any of the Scripture pertaining to this issue I must state that none of these qualities should be practiced in any Bible believing church. Anyone in the church who exhibits these qualities continually is either backslidden or not saved at all. These actions are not conducive to the Holy Spirit of God.

Pro 6:16 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:

Pro 6:17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Pro 6:18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

Pro 6:19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, **and he that soweth discord among brethren.**

The Bible says that God HATES those that cause division in the church and problems between the members.

1Pe 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, **or as a busybody in other men's matters.**

People that spend their time approaching members at Walmart attacking the Pastor and the church are not in line with Biblical principle. If they are not a member of FWBT then it is none of their business what goes on within our church.

Tit 1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Those that cause problems in the church need to be addressed quickly before they poison the whole congregation.

Act 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, **to draw away disciples after them.**

Those that cause problems in the church are always looking for someone to follow their ways.

Jam 3:10 **Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing.** My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

You can't smile and sing in the choir on Sunday morning and then stand on the front porch putting down the Pastor and members directly after the service. This is blessing and cursing proceeding from the same mouth.

2Th 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

1Ti 5:13 And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

Most of the people who are backbiters do no work in the church. If people would get busy for the Lord they would not have time to talk about the other members.

Psa 15:1 <A Psalm of David.> LORD, **who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?**

Psa 15:2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

Psa 15:3 **He that backbiteth not with his tongue,** nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

What kind of people does God say He wants in the church?

Eph 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

It is fine to have righteous anger against that which is wrong and sin. However, sinful anger from the flesh cannot have its place in the house of God.

Tit 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, **not soon angry,** not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

A preacher that flies off the handle all the time is not fit for the pulpit.

Pro 22:24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

The Bible commands us to refrain from fellowshiping with angry people.

Pro 29:22 **An angry man stirreth up strife,** and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

An angry man can split a church right down the middle.

Ecc 7:9 Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

We as members of FWBT need to be able to control our tempers. Remember that the Covenant reads "excessive anger". The Bible does tell us that there is a time when we should be angry but excessive anger cannot be tolerated.

29) to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage;

Pro 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: **and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.**

Pro 23:29 **Who hath woe? who hath sorrow?** who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

Pro 23:30 **They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.**

Pro 23:31 **Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.**

Pro 23:32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

Pro 23:33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

God commands us not to even look at the wine when it is fermented.

Deu 32:14 Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and **thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.**

The right wine in the Bible is the pure wine that is taken directly from the grape and then consumed. This is grape juice. Jesus' blood is represented by wine (grape juice) not fermented wine. Fermentation is a dying process. Jesus' blood represents life not death.

Num 6:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate *themselves* to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate *themselves* unto the LORD:

Num 6:3 **He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.**

When a Nazarite vow was taken, the person making the vow could not have anything to do with any part of a grape.

Hab 2:15 **Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink,** that putteth thy bottle to *him*, and makest *him* drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

You are not to provide alcohol to other people. When Jesus made the wine at the wedding, it had to be grape juice. If it was fermented then Jesus would have sinned because he would have produced enough wine to make everyone drunk.

Pro 31:4 *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, **it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:**

Those in governmental positions should completely abstain from alcohol as it clouds judgment.

Lev 10:8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying,

Lev 10:9 **Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation,** lest ye die: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations:

Lev 10:10 And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

Here is the perfect verse to give the person who claims that they will stop drinking when they read in the Bible, "Thou shalt not drink alcohol". Many who claim this are of religious persuasion that uses alcoholic beverages in their services. God emphatically states here not to come into the place of worship with alcohol period.

Isa 28:7 **But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink,** they are

swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; **they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.**

The leadership in the church should completely abstain from wine. Most mistakes and bad decisions are made while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Hos 7:5 In the day of our king the princes have made *him* sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners.

1Co 6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, **nor drunkards**, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Eph 5:18 **And be not drunk with wine**, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

We should strive to be filled with the Spirit of God at FWBT and abstain from all forms of intoxicating beverages.

30) and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

As a member of FWBT are you truly on fire for God? Can you not wait to get back to church to be around your brothers and sisters in Christ? Can you not wait to tell others about our church and about the salvation of the Lord?

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, **zealous of good works.**

We should be falling all over ourselves trying to do good works for the Lord.

1Co 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

If everyone in this church became zealous for the Lord, we would see FWBT busting at the seams.

Tit 3:8 *This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, **that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable unto men.

Notice this says “maintain good works”. This doesn’t mean you throw God a bone every now and then. We should constantly be serving God.

Num 25:13 And he shall have it, and his seed after him, *even* the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

If we are zealous for God, God will reward FWBT as well.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Good works follow salvation. After we are “created in Christ Jesus” we will perform good works.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

We should motivate one another at FWBT to do more good works for the Lord.

31) We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love;

Rom 13:8 Owe no man any thing, **but to love one another**: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

We owe it to each other as members of FWBT to love one another.

Gal 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, **but by love serve one another**.

Gal 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself**.

Jam 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well**:

Do you faithfully serve the other members of FWBT? Would you treat yourself like you treat the others in this church?

Rom 15:1 We then that are strong ought **to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves**.

We should gravitate towards those that are hurting in the church and help lift them up.

1Co 9:19 For though I be free from all *men*, **yet have I made myself servant unto all**, that I might gain the more.

Have you made yourself a servant unto all at FWBT?

Jam 2:15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

Jam 2:16 And one of you say unto them, **Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?**

Jam 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Just telling someone you will be praying for them and doing nothing to help their situation is not enough. While we realize that FWBT doesn't have the funds to help everyone completely in every situation, this still doesn't mean that we are to turn a deaf ear to everyone that petitions FWBT for help. We do a great job at FWBT of helping others and we must be good stewards of what God has given us. Everyone in the church needs to realize that if we have 10 families that need help in the church we can't just hand over \$300 to each family. If we did that every month we would have to close the doors on the church. There has to be a balance to everything we do at FWBT.

1Co 12:22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

1Co 12:23 And those *members* of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely *parts* have more abundant comeliness.

1Co 12:24 For our comely *parts* have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that *part* which lacked:

1Co 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another.

If your foot is hurt, you don't just ignore it and keep going. You look to see what the problem is and try to fix it because it will affect the rest of the body. The same is true when a member is in pain. We must do all we can to help fix the situation.

32) to remember each other in prayer;

How often do you pray for certain members of this church outside our church walls? How often do you pray for the leadership and the Pastor? We must do our part to pray for the members and our church as a whole.

Eph 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Act 12:12 And when he had considered *the thing*, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; **where many were gathered together praying.**

2Co 9:13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, **and for your liberal distribution unto them,** and unto all *men*;

2Co 9:14 **And by their prayer for you,** which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.

We should pray for those that give of themselves for the Lord's work.

Jam 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

This doesn't mean that you have to tell each individual sin to your brother or sister in Christ. What this means is that you tell them your general need and ask them to pray for you in that direction.

1Th 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

We should pray whenever we get the opportunity.

Heb 13:18 **Pray for us:** for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

Many times we take a flippant attitude towards prayer. Someone asks us to pray for them and we respond that we will but never do. Let's make a conscious effort to sincerely pray for people when they ask us to.

Col 1:9 For this cause we also, **since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you,** and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Can you say this about prayer requests that you have heard? Does it impact you enough to pray every day for that person and his/her situation?

Rom 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; **continuing instant in prayer;**

33) to aid each other in sickness and distress;

Jam 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

If you are having health or financial difficulties, the best place to start is to have the men of the church pray over you.

Rom 15:26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make **a certain contribution for the poor saints** which are at Jerusalem.

In Biblical times, local churches would help other local churches that were in need.

1Jo 3:17 **But whoso hath this world's good,** and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

This means if you have the means to help your brother and don't, how can you say that the love of God is in you? Notice it states "whoso hath this world's good". Sometimes the church is not in a position to help others. That is when other churches that have been blessed are to step up and help out.

Phi 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

It is a sweet odour to God for churches to help those around them.

2Co 9:11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

2Co 9:12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth **the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;**

2Co 9:13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for *your* **liberal distribution unto them,** and unto all *men*;

There are not many churches today that can be described as adhering to "liberal distribution".

Act 11:27 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.

Act 11:28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

Act 11:29 **Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:**

Act 11:30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

The disciples gave “according to his ability”. Maybe all of them were not able to give. The key is that you give what you can and do it cheerfully.

Gal 6:6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Gal 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Gal 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, **let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.**

We are to take care of our own members first and then branch out and help others.

1Co 16:2 Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, **as God hath prospered him**, that there be no gatherings when I come.

You can only give what you can give. God will bless even \$1 if given in His name.

34) to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;

This means to show genuine concern and care when speaking with other members of the church.

Col 4:6 **Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt**, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

We are not to compromise truth in order to make other members feel good. However, we are not to tear down other members yet we are to be sympathetic to their situation and try to help them.

Tit 2:8 **Sound speech, that cannot be condemned**; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

As long as you are using the Bible to instruct and not your opinion you can help others.

Jam 3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? **let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.**

Each situation has to be handled in meekness and in wisdom.

Phi 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Psa 40:10 I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: **I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.**

We should not hold back anything from the congregation of FWBT when it pertains to Biblical truth.

Pro 16:24 Pleasant words *are as* an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Sometimes a kind word can do more for a person than actual medicine.

Pro 25:11 A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Pro 15:4 A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life: but perverseness therein *is* a breach in the spirit.

We should never use our tongues to belittle other members. We should constantly be trying to lift up those that are down.

Eph 4:29 **Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth**, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

If you can't say anything good, don't say anything at all. AMEN!

35) to be slow to take offense,

We should be slow to take action and be longsuffering in our church body. When a person is in the wrong we should do everything within our power to move them towards repentance before exercising church discipline.

Pro 15:18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but *he that is* slow to anger appeaseth strife.

While we do need to be angry at sit, we need to be slow to anger when confronting situations in the church.

Pro 16:32 *He that is* slow to anger *is* better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

Pro 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Rom 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

God tells us that sometimes it is not possible to get along with people. Sometimes we do have to take action in order to rid the church of those who would eventually harm us.

Psa 34:14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Anytime a church exercises church discipline it should be to seek peace in the church.

Jam 3:16 For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.

A church cannot operate for God when there is envying and strife among the members.

36) but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

While sometimes church discipline is needed and warranted, we must always be ready at FWBT to reconcile those who return with genuine repentance.

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, **ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness**; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

The ultimate goal of church discipline is restoration of a brother.

Mat 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Mat 18:16 But if he will not hear *thee*, *then* take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Mat 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

1Co 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

1Co 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

1Co 6:3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

1Co 6:4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

Sometimes we are positioned in such a way that we have to make judgments in the church.

2Co 2:7 **So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him**, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

2Co 2:8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would **confirm your love toward him**.

2Co 2:9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

2Co 2:10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgave I it* in the person of Christ;

2Co 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

If someone that we have exercised church discipline on returns and stands before the church and sincerely states they are sorry and will from that point on support the Pastor and the ministries of FWBT, we are to accept them back into the fold with open arms.

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you**.

We are not to hold their past aggressions against them.

Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, **and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you,**

“Well you don’t know what they did to me!”. It doesn’t matter, if they are truly repentant we should forgive them just as Christ forgave us. They didn’t crucify you.

2Th 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

2Th 3:15 **Yet count him not as an enemy,** but admonish *him* as a brother.

We should not hate those that have left FWBT, we should pity them and try to get them to repent and do what is right.

37) We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God’s Word.

Many who leave a church drop out completely and they don’t go anywhere. This is not of God. When you join this church and depart for any reason besides church discipline, you should immediately join fellowship with another church body immediately. In the case of church discipline, you should make things right with the church before joining another church congregation. A Pastor that knows the Bible should not allow someone who has been forced to leave a church due to church discipline to join his church without instructing that person to go make things right with the church he left first.

Mat 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

The context of this verse is church discipline. If a church binds together and rules in favor of church discipline on an individual, it cannot be loosed by another congregation. It must be loosed by the church that exercised church discipline.

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, **as the manner of some is;** but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

We are to meet more and more as we see the day approaching. What day? The answer is the day that the Lord returns for His church. You need to be in church somewhere.

Luk 11:36 If thy whole body therefore *be* full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

Christians are called candles over and over in Scripture.

Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

A church in Scripture is symbolized by a candlestick. Where is a candle supposed to be placed? The answer is in a candlestick. Your place is in the local church.