

Church Membership Basics and Responsibilities – FBC Dublin, GA

First Baptist Church is a family of regenerate (saved) Christ-followers who have been baptized by immersion. Members enter a covenant relationship with their local congregation when they join. They do so with an understanding that membership entails both privileges and responsibilities. The church, likewise, embraces its responsibility to provide a special care for its members as their church family.

- 1) Members are expected to submit to the authority of the Scriptures and walk in holiness. They accept that they will be held accountable via loving and gentle correction if they openly and unrepentantly live contrary to biblical truth, endangering the church's witness. In doing this, the church will seek to spiritually restore the member and not embarrass them in any way.
- 2) Members commit to daily prayer and Bible study in their devotional pursuit of Jesus as their Lord. They take responsibility for their personal growth in biblical and doctrinal understanding.
- 3) Members and their families connect with other believers in the church family by participating in Sunday School classes. These are provided so that members may experience the loving support of other believers in a similar season of life. Sunday School is the church's primary foundational tool for the spiritual growth of our members. In addition to Sunday School, members are encouraged to take advantage of periodic discipleship training opportunities when they are able. We offer discipleship training opportunities to speed and deepen the spiritual growth of our members.
- 4) Members worship God corporately by attending services together. Members participate in worship as the congregation together sings, prays, reads passages of Scripture, receives biblical instruction, etc.
- 5) Members support the church through their financial gifts. The Bible instructs believers to give worshipfully, regularly, proportionally, sacrificially, cheerfully, and obediently to support the message and mission of their church. Members are encouraged to give in a regular way (weekly, monthly, etc.) to support our church's ongoing ministries and budget expenses. Members may direct a special gift to a specific ministry, need, or special project by designating an offering for that purpose. The church provides multiple ways for members and families to give.
- 6) Members find at least one place of ongoing service that matches their passions, spiritual gifts, and/or skills. Guests and new members are encouraged at first to attend and focus on building relationships. Those who faithfully attend the church for a minimum of one year become eligible to be considered for service with legal minors, following a background check. The Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Families and the Associate Pastor of Students and Young Adults have complete discretion as to who they ask to serve with children and students.
- 7) Members participate in periodic ministry or outreach projects (and/or trips) that enable our church to meet the needs of our members, our community, and beyond.
- 8) Members understand the message of the Gospel and share it as given opportunity. They are trained by the church to do this through the sharing of their testimony, or by other means.
- 9) Members provide spiritual support to other believers as they walk through life together. They do so with love and humility. They seek to serve the interests of others above their own interests.
- 10) Members guard the loving unity enjoyed by our church. They reject the spirit of the age that causes believers to view their local church as a "club" they have joined so that they might enjoy the "perks" of membership. They reject any "pay to play" attitude that causes them to expect the church to cater to their preferences. They avoid divisive or disruptive speech or actions. Members instead see service as a privilege. They see that their local church is a vehicle of divine purpose for the sake of Christ's Kingdom on earth. They do this for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that souls may be saved, and lives may be changed, this all to the glory of God!