

SCRIPTURAL COVENANT FOR WORKING & WORSHIPING TOGETHER

(Preamble & Scripture Added March 2015)

Preamble

Believing that God has called us to order and to peace,¹ we covenant before God and one another to conduct ourselves in the following manner:

- The Word of God says: “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ” (Ephesians 4:15, ESV)
Therefore, we will be as honest as we can with each other.
- The Word of God says: “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves” (Romans 12:10, NIV).
Therefore, we will speak to one another with respect.
- The Word of God says: “Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people” (Colossians 3:23, NLT).
Therefore, we will all be responsible for the successful implementation of any action we decide to take.
- The Word of God says: “Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body” (Ephesians 4:25, NIV).
Therefore, we will communicate directly to each other using the first person “I.”
- The Word of God says: “Each one of you should look not only to you own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4, NIV)
Therefore, we will recognize and identify merit in another person’s idea before we note its weakness.
- The Word of God says: “The purpose in a man’s heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out” (Proverbs 20:5, ESV).
Therefore, we will repeat what the other person has said to confirm we have understood them, and ask them to do the same if we feel we have not been understood.
- The Word of God says: “The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7, NLT)
Therefore, we will not jump to conclusions.
- The Word of God says: “Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry” (James 1:19, NLT)
Therefore, we will listen to understand, but don’t necessarily have to agree.
- The Word of God says: “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses” (2 Corinthians 13:1, NIV).
Therefore, we will deal only with “Directly Observable Data” (D.O.D.), not rumors, and seek to understand all sides.

¹ “For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people” (1 Corinthians 14:33, NIV).