



**BECOMING A  
KINGDOM  
PARTNER**



# Becoming a Kingdom Partner

## Table of Contents

Part One:	Loving God	Page 3
	Outside Reading Assignment	Page 10
Part Two:	Loving People	Page 25
	Exercise: Personal Ministry Assessment	Page 28
Part Three:	The Local Church	Page 31
Part Four:	Making Disciples	Page 37
Part Five:	An Overview of Kingdom Partnership	Page 39
Part Six:	The Partnership Pledge	Page 41

## Church Documents

<i>Mission, Values and Vision</i>	<i>Page 9</i>
<i>Scriptural Government and Bylaws</i>	<i>Page 10</i>
<i>Supervision of Children during Meetings</i>	<i>Page 20</i>
<i>Limited Confidentiality Policy</i>	<i>Page 21</i>
<i>The Six-Month Policy</i>	<i>Page 22</i>
<i>The Partnership Pledge</i>	<i>Page 41</i>



# Becoming a Kingdom Partner

## **Our Mission**

Loving God, Loving People, Making Disciples

## **Part One: Loving God**

God intends for us all to be part of a family. The church is an eternal family where the love of the Heavenly Father can be experienced by his children. Being part of God's family is a big commitment which forces us to rely on God's grace in order to love through thick and thin and to serve unselfishly. Belonging to a local church is vital to our spiritual growth since it is there that we learn to walk out the spiritual principles and values we learn about in the Bible. The entire congregation benefits when individuals make firm commitments to the local church as a whole and to the other individual members. It is one thing to informally commit to another person or group, as some couples do when they decide to live together without getting married. But when we take our relationship to a deeper level, it is good to make our determination to stick with that person or group known. It is beneficial when we formalize our commitment in front of witnesses to make sure that everyone understands the depth of what we are doing and will hold us accountable to our word. When we announce publicly that we are committing ourselves to a specific church, and the church does likewise toward us, we understand that this relationship is not something to be lightly discarded if things don't turn out exactly as we might like. In a marriage, the man and woman vow to remain true to one another "for better or worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health". We need to have the same kind of resolve in the church family. Otherwise we may fail to grow to the kind of relational and personal maturity that God desires, and God's testimony through the church of his unchanging faithfulness will be marred. When Christians cannot get along or resolve their differences, it makes the entire gospel of reconciliation suspect.

Another benefit that results from making a public commitment to the church is that it will make it less likely that we experience the disappointment of someday realizing that we were in a one-sided relationship. Some people like to be "takers", extracting from others without ever giving back. When we commit to a church, we are agreeing to give and receive love to and from others who have the same desire and commitment. This is a mature and healthy approach to things. Imagine if only one spouse were committed to the marriage, but the other was still looking and hoping for another relationship. Nothing lasting is likely to be built, and someone is going to be deeply hurt. By committing to the church, we are telling people that we are going to be faithful to them and do our best not casually hurt them by bailing on our commitment to relationship.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

Sometimes it is useful to think of the church as being a building and a body. A building doesn't go anywhere. Its stones are cemented in place. It is a place to live and be sheltered from the elements. A body, on the other hand, is designed by God to move and accomplish things, including reproduction. As a church acts as a body, doing things together, friction can develop between the moving parts, straining our relationships. When this happens we must remember that first of all we are a house, a group of people cemented together by covenant love. Being a loving family is a higher priority than getting a whole lot done; although, both are important. We will have reached a wonderful level of maturity when we can work together without damaging our relationships.

Of course, we are not suggesting that once you join a church you can never leave. A church can be thought of as a train. People board and get off at different places along the tracks. Sometimes people join a church because God is doing something specific in their lives, and when that work is completed, the Lord may move them on to another place in his larger body of believers. Sometimes God calls people to launch out into other forms of ministry or to plant another church in another location. Other people may be called away due to business reasons. Thankfully many choose to ride the train all the way to the end. If we someday must leave a church, it should be for the right reasons and not simply to escape from difficulty. So, joining a church is serious business and well worth the time and effort you will put into going through this document and attending these classes.

Life is a challenging and often difficult journey. We need friends who will walk beside us and help us through the hard times, and we should be there when others are in need. Becoming a part of a church is an opportunity to establish lifelong friendships and engage in the most important work available to human beings – serving God's kingdom. We hope you will make the decision to become part of our family, become friends and serve God together.

### **Loving God: Our Number One Priority**

Jesus gave us what many call **the Great Commandment** in order to tell us what is most important in life. To paraphrase, we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves. When we combine this with **the Great Commission**, to go and make disciples, teaching them to obey all that Jesus has commanded, we have the basis of Liberty Church's mission statement. It's important, however, that we always put first things first – **Loving God**.

*We love because he loved us first.*

**1 John 4:19 (NET1)**



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

When the Holy Spirit opens our hearts to God's selfless and sacrificial love, he enables us to return that love as a (super)natural response. It's vital that we grasp the Biblical concept that every good thing originates in God and that the ability to live the Christian life is an ongoing miracle of God's provision of grace through the operation of the Holy Spirit. Thankfulness for this amazing gift is a sure sign that a person is in love with God.

*always giving thanks to God the Father for each other in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

**Ephesians 5:20 (NET1)**

Another indication that we truly love God is when we choose to study God's Word and live in obedience. Little children must learn to be obedient. Most kids naturally want to please their fathers, and over time and through instruction and loving discipline, they learn to obey. It is the same for us when we become part of God's family through the new birth. We begin our spiritual journey by spending time with God whom we love and who loves us. We learn more about him through our study of the Bible and the instruction of the Holy Spirit. At first we may not understand how important it is to be obedient, but over time God will show us. Then we must make a choice to acknowledge that Jesus is Lord over our lives.

*If you love me, you will obey my commandments.*

**John 14:15 (NET1)**

Obedience requires us to have a complete reliance upon God's grace and the inner working of the Holy Spirit. Otherwise we will surely sink into a performance-based version of Christianity rather than living out the true gospel of grace.

*Are you so foolish? Although you began with the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by human effort? Galatians 3:3 (NET1)*

Nevertheless, if our faith does not lead to genuine heartfelt and joyful obedience, we must question the reality of our faith. God is glorified by joyfully obedient people.

*For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments. And his commandments do not weigh us down, 1 John 5:3 (NET1)*

Prayer is another discipline of a person who truly loves God. Prayer is meant to be time spent in relationship with God, listening to his voice and sharing our hearts, needs, concerns and



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

requests with him. Christianity is a life-giving relationship with God initiated by the Father ages ago, provided for by the Son through his death and resurrection, and implemented by the present day work of the Holy Spirit. When God reveals himself to us through his Spirit and in his Word, our hearts respond in faith and love. This actuates the power of the gospel in our lives as we are reconciled to Abba Father and receive the Spirit of his Son. We are enabled to relate to God in a brand new way as newly born sons who have a righteous standing by grace and a divine invitation to come directly into God's presence whenever we desire through the new and living way of the Spirit. Prayer is what happens when we use this privilege to come before God to worship, listen, enjoy fellowship, and make petitions. So, we must first of all see prayer as a way to love God, but also as a means to fulfill the second part of the Great Commandment – to love others.

### **Loving Our Neighbor: Our Second Priority**

In the West, too often the Christian faith and life are viewed through the lens of an individual experience with God. We must also understand that love must have an object. God loved us so much that he gave himself sacrificially in order to bless us. He wants us to become like him by loving others to the extent that we will give ourselves for them. This cannot be merely a spiritual thing: it must be worked out in the natural realm, too.

As pointed out before, one practical way we can love others is by praying for them. Prayer is hard work and requires discipline, but, unless it is motivated by love, it probably will not last nor be of much value.

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but I do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away everything I own, and if I give over my body in order to boast, but do not have love, I receive no benefit. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NET1)***

Prayer, in this regard, is the act of coming before God to make petitions and proclamations on the behalf of others. It is our privilege to be able to do this, and to fail in this regard is a sinful and selfish missing out on one of the great joys and blessings in life.

*As far as I am concerned, far be it from me to sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you! I will instruct you in the way that is good and upright. **1 Samuel 12:23 (NET1)***



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

A second way to love others is by serving in various ministries, effectively meeting the needs of those in the community with the hope that doing so will open their hearts to receive the greatest gift of all, eternal life in Christ. We encourage our Kingdom Partners to get involved at some level in this sort of ministry.

A third way we can practically show our love for others is to obey the Great Commission. Jesus wants the church to have its eyes turned outward on the harvest. Multitudes are perishing everyday and going to an eternity without God or hope. Unless we take this responsibility of love to heart and get moving, we will miss a great chance to love God by loving others, and this brings us to the third part of our mission – making disciples.

### **Making Disciples**

The first aspect of fulfilling the Great Commission is to share the gospel, including our personal testimony of how God brought us to him. If this results in a person believing the gospel and coming into a saving relationship with Christ through faith, then we can fulfill the second part of the Great Commission by teaching them how to live a life of obedience to God. Of course, it is only reasonable that we must first be discipled if we are to effectively do the same for others. This is why Liberty Church emphasizes discipleship training so much. We will cover this in greater depth later.

### **Your Personal Salvation Testimony**

Before you can become Kingdom Partner at Liberty Church, you first must be born into Christ's Kingdom. Please take time now to either write down on a separate sheet of paper or share orally your testimony of how you were born again.

*because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (NET1)*

### **Water Baptism**

Baptism in water is a vital public expression of our faith in Christ and commitment to obey Him. Before a person can become a Kingdom Partner, he or she must submit to Christ's command to be baptized in water. We believe that the most scriptural form of water baptism is by immersion because it most graphically displays our death to sin and rebirth to life. If you were baptized in water by sprinkling or pouring earlier in life and now would like to be immersed, we



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

highly recommend it. Also, if you were baptized before you fully understood baptism's significance, it would probably be good to do it again with full understanding this time.

*Peter said to them, "Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**Acts 2:38 (NET1)**

### The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The New Testament indicates that new believers should immediately receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit after being born again. This experience with the Holy Spirit is another blessing from God which is intended to strengthen and empower his people to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the earth."*

**Acts 1:8 (NET1)**

Usually those who receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit speak in other tongues or prophesy, these being an outward evidence of the internal, invisible work of the Spirit which is received by faith. This gift is available to all Christians and is part of the normal plan for God's people.

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NET1)*

*and when Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy. Acts 19:6 (NET1)*

*in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles, so that we could receive the promise of the Spirit by faith. Galatians 3:14 (NET1)*

*Peter said to them, "Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to himself." Acts 2:38-39 (NET1)*



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

In order to become a Kingdom Partner, it is not required that you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit as we understand it, but it is highly recommended. So much of what we believe and practice is related to this wonderful gift from our heavenly Father. It may be more difficult for you to understand some of what we do if you have not personally received this blessing. Please pray about the response you will make to his invitation to know Jesus as the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit.

*John answered them all, "I baptize you with water, but one more powerful than I am is coming — I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **Luke 3:16 (NET1)***

The continuing fullness of the Spirit is available to those who seek God and learn to abide in his presence by faith. A life of obedience and worship is the key to "abiding in the vine".

*And do not get drunk with wine, which is debauchery, but be filled by the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for each other in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **Ephesians 5:18-20 (NET1)***



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### Outside Reading Assignment

Liberty Church has adopted the following statements of purpose, vision, tenets of faith, and government. Please carefully read over the material on the following pages. If you have any questions, please make notes so you can get answers at our next meeting.

#### **Scriptural Government and Bylaws**

Liberty Church is legally incorporated in the state of North Carolina and is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. When we established the church, we adopted the attached Scriptural Government and Bylaws in an effort to state our scriptural governing principles and our fundamental tenets of faith. We intend that we will be subject to the authority of Scripture and that no man-made rules that are contrary to the teachings of the Bible will have dominion over us. Adherence to the principles contained in the Scriptural Government is intended to bring liberty and growth to the members of the church and to give us an orderly form of government based on the Scriptures.

In order to become a member of Liberty Church, it is necessary that you read the Scriptural Government and Bylaws and agreed to be governed by it under the direction of the Holy Spirit and his appointed leadership in the church. Please read it at home, make any necessary notes that need further discussion and set up a time to discuss these matters with the Pastor or other representative of the church. Please sign below if you have read the Purpose Statement, Scriptural Government and Bylaws, and Supervision of Children and are willing to be governed by them.

**I have read and am willing to abide by the Scriptural Government and Bylaws of Liberty Church.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Head of Household)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Spouse, if applicable)



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### **Mission**

Our mission is to love God, love people and make disciples of all nations.

### **Values**

Our core values are family, truth and character. We believe these represent aspects of God's nature. The Father is the creator and sustainer of true family. The gospel of reconciliation opened the door back into intimacy with Him. The Son is the Truth incarnate Whose Word sets the captives free, and the Holy Spirit is the One Who shapes our character to resemble Christ's. As a church we seek to prioritize these three values in all we do.

### **Vision**

Our vision is to equip disciples and plant churches who will take the gospel of grace and reconciliation to Alamance County and the world, and to assist other ministries and bless our community, imparting life, liberty, healing and restoration through the truth of God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit in an atmosphere of love.

### **Theme Scripture Verse**

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

***Isaiah 61:1***



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Scriptural  
Government  
and  
Bylaws  
of

**Liberty Church**

**1746 Jim Barnwell Road**

**Burlington, NC 27217**



# Becoming a Kingdom Partner

## PREAMBLE

The Pastor, Elders, and membership of Liberty Church, in order to establish a Christian ministry dedicated to furthering the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ here on earth, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local church. We dedicate ourselves to spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by all available means.

We dedicate ourselves to "be the church" by loving and caring for one another and to extend the kingdom of God by reaching out to those who are not a part of the church. We desire to bring the good news of salvation, forgiveness, healing, and liberation as Christ declared it in Luke 4:18 -- emphasizing the love of the Father, the lordship of Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

## ARTICLE I: NAME

The corporate name of this church shall be Liberty New Testament Church, Inc., and the operating name shall be Liberty Church.

## ARTICLE II: PREROGATIVE

Section 1. This church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards and principles of the Bible. These By-laws shall be an effort to state such principles and standards, and if at any time it becomes clear to the pastor and elders that the By-laws contradict Scripture, they shall be immediately amended.

Section 2. This church shall implement New Testament Christianity commissioned by the following prerogatives:

- a. To administer the regular ordinances as defined in Article V of this Constitution;
- b. To establish and maintain such departments, fellowships, groups, meetings, auxiliary organizations, institutions and services within the church for propagation of the gospel and its work, embraced by the purpose of this guide of scriptural government;
- c. To examine candidates for the ministry and ordain those who have been approved by the Pastor and Elders of this church according to the standards set forth by the New Testament;
- d. To establish other churches, church education ministries and missions both at home and abroad according to standards set forth by the New Testament;
- e. To designate its own officers, to appoint committees, to arrange for its own meetings and to govern itself in accordance with this guide of scriptural government;
- f. To establish and define policy by which it shall be governed.

Section 3. In connection therewith, it shall have the right to acquire, to own or to dispose of any real property or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

accordance with this guide of scriptural government or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

### ARTICLE III: ASSOCIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to autonomy in the management of its own affairs, this church shall be able to voluntarily enter into relationship with any other churches of like precious faith.

### ARTICLE IV: TENETS OF FAITH

This church accepts the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule for faith and practice, and, for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the following statement of fundamental truths:

We believe the Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God. We believe that there is one God, who has revealed Himself as three Persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His Ascension to reign at the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to judge the living and the dead and to rule forevermore. We believe that the only means of being forgiven and cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in Christ and His redemptive work. We believe that regeneration by the Holy Spirit, the new birth, is absolutely essential for personal salvation. We believe that the redemptive work of Christ provides for healing of the human body and soul. We believe that all disciples of Jesus Christ should be baptized in water. We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is given to believers who ask for it in faith. We believe that the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is for today, and that the gifts are vital tools for ministry and evangelism. We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life. We believe in the laying on of hands for ordination and impartation of spiritual gifts. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

### ARTICLE V: ORDINANCES

Section 1. The Ordinance of Baptism by immersion in water shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 2. The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined by the Scripture.

Section 3. The Ordinance of the Anointing with Oil and Prayer for the Sick by the Elders according to James 5:14-15 shall be provided to those who request it.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### ARTICLE VI: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the universal body of Christ is obtained when one receives eternal life through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Such a persons must give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by verbal confession, water baptism, and by the witness of their daily lives. Having done so, such a person is eligible to be a committed member of a local church.

In order to promote and preserve the unity, vision, and purpose of Liberty Church, members and those desiring membership must:

- a. support the Tenets of Faith of Liberty Church;
- b. consent to be governed by this Scriptural Government; and
- c. support the leadership, vision, and work of the church.

They would also be expected to:

- d. regularly attend church meetings; and
- e. contribute regularly to the support of the church according to their ability.

Section 2. Persons who desire to become members of Liberty Church should complete a "Household Profile" form and familiarize themselves with the Scriptural Government, vision, ministries, doctrine and policies of the church by attending a Membership Class, meeting with the Pastor or by other appropriate means. Membership shall be extended to all who desire it and who meet the criteria set forth above in Section 1 and who sign a Membership Agreement form. Insofar as they are able, they should make every effort to be on good terms with their previous pastor and church, if applicable.

Section 3. In cases requiring church discipline, the Pastor and/or the Elders shall follow the Scriptural guidelines outlined in Matthew 18:15-18, 1 Corinthians 5, and the other Scriptures. The goal for all church discipline shall be to protect the church and bring about the eventual repentance and restoration of the offending party.

Section 4. Members of the church may become subjects for discipline in the following ways:

- a. promotion of strife and discord (Titus 3:10-11);
- b. blasphemy or heresy (Acts 20:28-31); or
- c. falling into and stubbornly continuing in flagrant sin that is destructive to the church. (e.g.. 1Co. 5:11; 2Thes. 3:14; Prov. 14:7, 17:12, 20:19, 22:10, 22:24, 29:22)

Section 5. Members may have their membership transferred to another church by simply requesting it.



# Becoming a Kingdom Partner

## ARTICLE VII: MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

We discourage divorce, but recognize that in certain cases it is Scripturally justified. We also recognize that in some cases remarriage of divorced persons is allowed by the Scriptures and can be a great blessing. Persons who have been divorced or remarried may be eligible to minister or hold office in the church.

## ARTICLE VIII: OFFICES

### Section 1. PASTOR

The Pastor, or Lead Elder, shall be responsible to the Lord Jesus Christ, and the other Elders, to lead and shepherd the church. He shall have authority commensurate with his responsibility to direct the affairs of the church either personally or through delegation. The Pastor shall be the executive head of the church and the President of the corporation. He shall be an ex-officio member of all departments, committees and auxiliary organizations. He shall act as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. His responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to the following: he should

- a. Seek the Lord for the direction of the church;
- b. Lead the church and, in cooperation with the Elders and ministry team, generally oversee all facets of the government and ministry of the church;
- c. Be an example for all, fulfilling the qualifications and duties of an Elder and Shepherd; and
- d. Personally shepherd the Elders and major leaders, always seeking to bring forth new leadership and ministry within the church.

In the event of his temporary absence, the Pastor shall be empowered to appoint a Chairman of the Board of Trustees, pro-tem, from the Elders, to sit in his place and fulfill all leadership responsibilities with the corresponding authority otherwise bestowed upon the Pastor in this position.

Recognizing that all the offices in the church are to be filled by those specifically appointed by God, and for His pleasure, the Pastor will serve for an indefinite period of time.

### Section 2. ELDERS

The governmental and spiritual oversight of the church shall be implemented by the ordained Elders under the direction of the Pastor. They shall be available to assist the Pastor and serve the congregation in any of the multiple tasks which comprise spiritual leadership and the oversight of this church. Such tasks are to be assigned by the Pastor and represent an extension



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

of the Pastor's own spiritual responsibilities. Each candidate for the office of Elder shall meet those requirements stated in I Tim.3: 1-7 and any other scripturally defined qualifications for servants of God. They are to watch and guard the church in accordance with Acts 20:28-31. As with the Pastor, the ordained Elders shall be appointed for an indefinite period of time. However, each year a review should be made by the Pastor and the Elder to determine if the Elder should continue in the office. They shall be appointed by the Pastor and confirmed by the existing ordained Elders. Elders may be given probationary status during their first year of ministry in order to demonstrate their calling and faithfulness.

If the number of ordained Elders who attend Liberty Church falls below the minimum number required by the Articles of Incorporation, then Leaders from Master Builders Fellowship, Grace Presbytery, or other churches with whom we have close fellowship, will be asked to serve in that official capacity on a temporary basis.

### Section 3. DEACONS

The overall physical care of the church shall be entrusted to the Deacons. In cooperation with the Elders, they shall be responsible for the upkeep of property and buildings, special projects or needs, and the general physical management of all church property. They shall not directly participate in the governmental oversight of the church. Each candidate for the office of Deacon shall meet all requirements as stated in I Tim.3:8-13 and any other scripturally defined qualifications for the servants of God.

The Pastor and Elders may ordain Deacons as needs arise, according to the example of Act 6. Recommendations may be received from the members of the church. The term of office shall be indefinite. However, the first year may be a probationary term for them to demonstrate their faithfulness. Each year a review should be made by the Pastor and the Deacon to determine if the Deacon should continue in the office.

### Section 4. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The ordained Elders of the church shall be the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall administer all construction and building projects, and upkeep and management of all church property.

The Board of Trustees shall be the custodians of all the church property. They shall on behalf of the church, have the right, power, and authority to purchase, acquire by gift, devise, or bequest real or personal property as Trustees, have the right and power to acquire property by the issuance of annuity bonds or other similar covenants, to own the beneficial title of or hold in trust of as Lessee, any real property needed for the carrying out of their plans for the furtherance of the interests of the Kingdom of God; to sell, convey, lease, hypothecate or otherwise dispose or encumber property of the church at any time, whether real or personal.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

The Board of Trustees shall meet regularly at a time they shall determine. Special meetings may be held upon decision of said Board, or upon request of the Pastor, provided all the Board members have been notified to be present. The Board of Trustees shall administer the funds of the church, annually review salary levels of any church employees and shall propose and make any changes of the same.

The Pastor shall be the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the members of said Board shall constitute the officers of the church.

### Section 5. TREASURER

The treasurer shall oversee and administer the finances of the church under the direction of the Board of Trustees which includes: receiving and depositing all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the church, and disbursing funds by check as authorized by the Board. The Pastor, the Treasurer, or their designees may be authorized to sign checks and/or to transact all other banking business of the church. He shall make an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements each month to the Board of Trustees and provide a copy of the report to each Board member. He shall make a summarized financial report to the church annually. The Treasurer may delegate, with the approval of the Board, clerical, administrative, and accounting responsibilities to the other responsible members of the church or to the office staff. The Treasurer of the church shall be a member of the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer's office may, if desirable, be combined with that of secretary into a single office of Secretary-Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting and appointed for a one-year renewable term.

### Section 6. SECRETARY

The secretary of the Board of Trustees shall be responsible for keeping and maintaining the official records of the church. He shall maintain custody of the corporate seal and of all legal documents pertaining to the church and its laws, and shall maintain in orderly manner the church membership records. He shall receive a copy of the other various department and committee meetings for inclusion in the corporate records of the church.

The Secretary shall be a member of the Board of Trustees. The Secretary shall be elected at the annual meeting and appointed for a one-year renewable term.

### Section 7. RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Any officer or minister of the church may resign at any time, if the situation warrants, but it is expected that ample advance notice be given and whenever possible that resignations would be given at designated review times or at the completion of appointed terms. Resignations may be permanent or in the form of a sabbatical for a designated period of time.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

Any office or ministry in the church, excepting that of Pastor or Lead Elder, may be declared vacant by a unanimous agreement of the Eldership, (excluding the person in question, should that person be an Elder), at any Elder's meeting. Grounds for such action may be any of the following:

- 1) The problems listed in Article VI, Section 4;
- 2) Incompetency in office.

Any incumbent under charges shall be given the opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17. In addition, scriptural steps of discipline may be instituted as specified in Article VI, Sections 3 and 4.

Should the Pastor or Lead Elder be placed under charges by any or all of the Elders, apostolic and prophetic overseers from Master Builders Fellowship, Grace Presbytery or churches with which we have close fellowship, should be called upon by the Pastor and/or Elders to help resolve matters. Any disciplinary action needed should be under the direction and authority of the apostolic and prophetic overseers in concert with the local elders, thereby sparing the elders from the questionable task of disciplining five-fold ministry.

### Section 8. PASTORAL SUCCESSION

Whenever it may become necessary to ordain a new Pastor, whether because of the death, resignation, or removal from office of the previous Pastor, the new Pastor shall be appointed by the Elders and confirmed by the church. When a vacancy in the Pastorate shall occur, for any cause whatsoever, the Elders shall arrange to supply pastoral leadership and ministry in cooperation with trusted leaders with whom they have relationships. Any new Pastor, upon assuming the office, shall have the right to ask any or all existing ordained Elders to resign so that he may re-establish the Eldership along the guidelines of a "Holy Spirit-established relationship" with himself.

## ARTICLE IX: PROPERTY RIGHTS

Section 1. All property of the church, whether real or personal, shall be contracted for, purchased, received, or held in the corporate name of the church and it shall accept the possession of all lands and all deeds and other assurances in the law in its name.

Section 2. The church shall not lease, let, sell, release, convey, mortgage, convey by way of trust, and hypothecate lands, tenements and real property unless said proposed act shall first have been authorized by the Board of Trustees.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

Section 3. The Pastor and the Secretary of the Board of Trustees shall certify in such conveyance, deed, lease, or mortgage or hypothecation that the same has been duly authorized by the decision of the Board of Trustees. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Funds for the maintenance of this church shall be provided by the voluntary tithes and offering of the members and friends of the church or by any other means or source consistent with the Scripture, principles, and moral standards of this church. Funds shall be accepted by the church at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Pastor and Trustees and shall be administered by the Treasurer and his designates.

Upon dissolution the assets will be distributed to one or more non-profit organizations exempt pursuant to section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or to the Federal Government or to a state or to local government, for a public purpose, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

### ARTICLE X: INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

This church may provide for the establishment of any such other ministries, departments, committees and auxiliary organizations or meetings as the need of the work may require. All such organizations shall be subordinate to the church and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor and Elders. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all departments, committees and auxiliaries.

### ARTICLE XI: MEETINGS

Meetings for public worship shall be held each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor and the Elders.

### ARTICLE XII: RECOMMENDATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Recommendations for any office or ministry shall be submitted to the Pastor prior to any appointment. The Pastor along with the Elders shall review all recommendations and make appointments.

### ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS

This Scriptural Government Guide may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Elders by mutual agreement, provided that notice of intention to offer amendments be given at the Elder's meeting one week prior to said meeting, and such notice shall explicitly describe the nature of the amendments.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### ARTICLE XIV: AVAILABILITY

The Scriptural Government & By-laws shall be kept in printed form and copies shall be made available as needed.

Adopted unanimously this 8th day of September, 1997.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### Supervision of Children during Meetings

*Our desire at Liberty Church is to provide a safe environment for our children at all times. The elders and shepherd group leaders have formulated the following guidelines to insure that we accomplish this goal.*

- **Parents are expected to participate in the oversight of their children at church meetings.** They have the main responsibility during times when church supervised youth activities are not in progress, such as during worship and before and after meetings.
- **If children are not in a supervised activity, they must remain within sight of their parents or guardians.** Parents and children must both take seriously their responsibility to keep this rule. It is especially important that children not be allowed to wander off to secluded rooms, including bathrooms, or unwatched areas of the property with other children or adults who are not supervisors.
- **All adults are asked to help with the oversight of the children,** whether you are “on duty” or not. Any adult who finds any unsupervised child(ren) should return them to his or her parents or proper class and notify one of those who are working with the children. Any repeat offenders must be reported to the elders.
- **Please keep your child from disrupting any meeting.** Running, making excessive noise, climbing on furniture, and handling sound equipment and musical instruments is not allowed. Children should not be allowed to make repeated visits to the bathrooms or water fountain while meetings are in progress.
- **One child at a time in bathrooms.** Young children are not allowed to go to the bathroom “together”. Parents should accompany their younger children to the bathroom before, during, and after meetings if the children are under their direct supervision.
- **No children are allowed in the kitchens or upstairs offices** unless authorized and accompanied by their parents.
- **No food or drink is allowed outside the dining areas.**



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### Limited Confidentiality Policy for Liberty Church

At Liberty Church, we believe ministry is always a function of teamwork. When a person receives counseling at Liberty, he or she should be informed that we believe counsees may need input from more than one person in order to get the benefit of a wider array of wisdom and understanding. Under normal circumstances, every effort will be made to preserve confidentiality in counseling situations, but counselors should always be free to bring other proven counselors into the mix as needed in order to provide the best ministry possible. Therefore, counselors should always inform those with whom they work of this policy so there will be no misunderstandings. In the following situations, counselors are expected to share in confidence what they know with the eldership of the church. All those in leadership and counseling ministry will be expected to agree to these stipulations and abide by them.

- If child abuse is suspected or discovered, the leader or counselor will be responsible to notify the pastor immediately. If the pastor is not available, one of the elders should be contacted so that appropriate action can be taken. This is required by law.
- If a person shares something with a leader or counselor that affects the general well-being, health or safety of the church, it is expected that that information be relayed to the pastor. Some examples are listed below:
  - A marriage is in serious trouble.
  - Someone is being unfaithful to his or her spouse.
  - There is a breach of unity in the church that needs to be addressed. This would include sowing seeds of division through criticism or gossip (without the offending party being present) or by harboring an offense towards the Pastor, Elders or other members in the church. Any such matter should be resolved between the parties in question. If a situation cannot be resolved by a face-to-face meeting, it is recommended that a counselor function as a mediator between the two parties. (Matthew 18:15-20)
- Leaders and counselors should be careful not to agree to strict confidentiality lest they become privy to information the pastor and elders need to know and then cannot share it.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### Six-Month Policy

It is the policy of Liberty Church to wait a minimum of six months before allowing new persons to serve in the nursery, in children's ministry or to have other teaching or ministry responsibilities in the church that will involve counseling, Bible teaching or personal ministry. The purpose of this policy is two-fold.

First, it provides new people and the church members with a "get to know you" period free from ministry pressures. It takes time to truly know a person or a church. Paul wrote Timothy:

*You, however, have followed my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, my endurance, 2 Timothy 3:10 (NET1)*

Such knowledge is imparted over time. Let's not be in too much of a rush to make commitments or enter into ministry.

The second reason we have this policy is to protect our children and people from those who may not have good intentions. Research has shown that molesters are seldom if ever willing to remain at a church for six months to get a crack at the kids. We have put into place a variety of safeguards to do our best to insure we have a safe and wholesome environment for our children.

Exceptions:

- If a new person is from another church with which we have a strong ministry relationship, and it is possible to receive a good reference from that church's pastor, we may waive the six-month policy based on that endorsement.
- If a person is already known to the pastor or another leader, we may waive the time restriction as well.
- Sometimes a newer person may be allowed to work in child care under the supervision of another adult member.

End of Outside Reading Assignment



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### Part Two: Loving People

The second half of the Great Commandment is to love other people as we love ourselves. As we discussed earlier, there are several ways to show love to people. In every case, love serves. In this section, we will look at some practical ways to serve and how to maximize our effectiveness.

Every Christian is called to serve. Kingdom Partners are expected to serve in some ministry of the church. Unless we pull together, we will not be able to accomplish what God has given us to do. How and where a person serves is up to them, but ideally you should aim at serving in the area of your gifting, strengths and passion. When this happens, our service is a joy and engages us fully, drawing upon our God-given abilities. Of course, every job that needs to be done is not “fun”. Some things need to be done out of necessity. For example, parents love some aspects of parenting, but someone has to change the diapers. No one thinks diaper changing is fun or fulfills some deep longing in the soul. We do it because we are responsible parents. There are things like that in the church, too. It is doubtful that anyone finds it part of his gifting and calling to clean out sewer lines. But when a clog occurs, it has to be done. To summarize, we hope you will be able to enjoy the fulfillment that comes when you serve in the area of your calling, but we hope you will also “step up to the plate” to help in other areas just because there is a need. When we serve in any capacity, we are serving the Lord. Whether it is pleasant or not, it can be fulfilling if we do it with the right attitude and motive.

At Liberty, we expect everyone to volunteer to serve in some capacity. At the close of this lesson, we will list some of the areas in which new people may serve. We reserve some areas for those who have been at the church for at least six months and who have signed the *Partnership Pledge*, but most service opportunities are open to all. The service areas reserved for those who make a commitment to partner with us are those which give access to children and involve teaching, leading and pastoring. We think it is reasonable to expect a commitment from those to whom we give access to the hearts and lives of our people.

In an effort to find where you might best serve, the following is a short teaching on the gifts God places in each of us. At the conclusion, you will be asked to take a brief “test” that will help reveal how God has uniquely gifted you to serve in His kingdom. We also highly recommend that you purchase Strengthsfinder 2.0 by Tom Rath and take the online Strengths Test and send the results to us via email to the address: [pastor@lifeatliberty.org](mailto:pastor@lifeatliberty.org).



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### **How to identify the wonderful gifts God has invested in you.**

Any good gift you have come from God and is meant to help others. Giftings come in two main categories - serving and speaking.

*Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the varied grace of God. 11 Whoever **speaks**, let it be with God's words. Whoever **serves**, do so with the strength that God supplies, so that in everything God will be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NET1)*

We are responsible to God for using and developing our gifts. (Mat.25:14-30) God has poured out all sorts of gifts upon his people. We will look at three groupings.

#### **A. Five-fold Ministry Gifts (Eph. 4:11-16)**

All these are people with life-long callings who are given by Christ to build up the church.

1. Apostle - one sent out to be a church planter, spiritual father, and master builder
2. Prophet - one gifted with extraordinary spiritual perception and insight to impart revelation and direction to individuals and churches
3. Evangelist - preacher of the gospel, harvester of souls, gifted in healing & miracles
4. Pastor - one who leads, feeds, and cares for the people of God. This person is often
5. Teacher - one who establishes the church in truth and doctrine

#### **B. Manifestation Gifts (1Co.12:7-11)**

Anyone may be used by the Spirit in these gifts which all function by the momentary anointing of the Holy Spirit.

1. Revelation gifts
  - a. Word of wisdom - speaking by revelation to give insight how God's ways and wisdom apply to a specific situation.
  - b. Word of knowledge - divine revelation of specific facts, needs, provisions, or God's mind.
  - c. Discerning of spirits- accurately judging sources behind someone or something by revelation.
2. Power gifts
  - a. Faith - believing beyond your normal level of faith, speaking faith in a particular situation with results.
  - b. Healings - impartation of divine healing by faith to another individual.
  - c. Miracles - signs and wonders.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### 3. Vocal gifts

- a. Tongues - speaking aloud in an unknown language for the entire congregation to hear. This is designed to be followed by an interpretation.
- b. Interpretation of Tongues-The meaning of a tongues message spoken aloud for all to hear. This gift is very similar to prophecy and must be judged.
- c. Prophecy - A verbal message given to the church or an individual under the inspiration of the Spirit for the purpose of building up and encouraging. Prophecies must be judged according to Scripture.

### C. Motivational Gifts - Rom. 12:3-8

These gifts are part of our inherent make-up. They are given to all.

#### 1. General description

- a. Teaching - emphasizes the Bible
- b. Prophecy - insight into people
- c. Exhortation - encourages spiritual growth
- d. Administration - desires to organize and meet goals
- e. Mercy - desires to remove emotional hurts in people
- f. Giving- desires to give abundantly, especially to those in ministry
- g. Serving - meets practical needs

#### 2. Analogy of the body - speaking and serving

- a. Teaching - the mind - 6%
- b. Prophecy - the eye - 12%
- c. Exhortation - the mouth - 16%
- d. Administration - the shoulders - 13%
- e. Mercy - the heart - 30%
- f. Giving - the arms - 6%
- g. Serving - the hands - 17%



# Becoming a Kingdom Partner

## Exercise for Part Two: Personal Ministry Assessment

### Motivational Gift Test

Next to each descriptive phrase write a number from 0 to 5 based on the following definitions. At the end of each gift add your total. The gift with the highest total could be your dominant motivational gift.

- 0 = does not apply to me    1= seldom applies to me    2 = sometimes applies to me  
 3 = usually is true of me    4 = most always is true of me    5 = always is true of me

<b>Teaching</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Score</b>
Presents truth in a logical and systematic way.		
Loves to study the Bible.		
Validates truth by using the Bible.		
Studies words and precise meanings.		
Uses Biblical illustrations.		
Tests the knowledge of others.		
Sometimes neglects practical application.		
Can be too detailed in presentation.		
Can be emotionally self-controlled.		
Would rather be studying or teaching.		
<b>Example: Paul</b>	<b>Total</b>	

<b>Prophecy</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Score</b>
Insight into people's motives.		
Can identify evil and hates it.		
Direct with words.		
Sees things as black or white.		
Uncompromising.		
Makes quick evaluations.		
Persuasive.		
Desires to see repentance.		
Can be judgmental, blunt and intolerant.		
Can be too rigid.		
<b>Example: John the Baptist</b>	<b>Total</b>	

**Go to next page.**



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

<b>Exhortation</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Score</b>
Loves to teach, encourage and counsel others to live victoriously.		
Prefers to apply truth rather than research it.		
Loves people and is positive.		
Likes practical applications.		
Gives steps for action.		
Helps others come forth.		
Decisive.		
Can over emphasize counseling.		
Can over emphasize steps of action.		
Accepts people where they are.		
<b>Example: Barnabus - Acts 4:36; 11:23-26; 14:22; 15:2, 35-41</b>		
<b>Total</b>		

<b>Administration</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Score</b>
Will step forward to lead if there is no defined leadership.		
Will stand on the sidelines unless responsibility is delegated by those in authority.		
Prefers to be under authority in order to have authority.		
Highly motivated to organize.		
Will identify, clarify and set goals.		
Delegates to and supervises others.		
Does not enjoy routine tasks.		
Sees the overall picture.		
Easily sees how people and resources fit together to accomplish the goal.		
Can become too focused on the goal and ignore people.		
<b>Example: Nehemiah</b>	<b>Total Score</b>	

**Go to next page.**



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

<b>Mercy</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Score</b>
Likes to encourage distressed people.		
Looks for good in people and is non-critical.		
Sensitive to hurtful words and actions.		
Sensitive to inner reactions in others.		
Motivated to help people have right relationships.		
Prefers to minister to emotional needs rather than physical ones.		
Drawn to other merciful people.		
Thoughtful and loving.		
Ruled by the heart instead of the head.		
Can be indecisive, easily hurt, and pick up the offenses of others.		
<b>Example: Good Samaritan - Luke 10:29-37</b>	<b>Total Score</b>	

<b>Giving</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Score</b>
Gives freely of money, time, possessions, etc. to others.		
Enjoys giving quietly.		
Has the ability to make money.		
Wants to feel a part of what he or she supports.		
Motivates others to give.		
Looks for needs.		
Gives high quality gifts.		
May live frugally in order to be able to give more.		
Gives far beyond the tithe.		
Wise with managing finances.		
<b>Example: The Macedonians - 2 Cor. 8-9</b>	<b>Total Score</b>	

<b>Serving</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Score</b>
Recognizes and meets practical needs.		
Can be caught up in much activity.		
Enjoys serving others.		
Has a hard time saying "no".		
Does not want to lead others.		
Supportive of leadership.		
Enjoys projects that can be quickly finished rather than long-term ones.		
Can be critical of others who are not sensitive to meeting needs.		
May be pushy or interfering when attempting to help.		
Can be easily hurt if not appreciated.		
<b>Example: Martha - Luke 10:38-42</b>	<b>Total Score</b>	



# Becoming a Kingdom Partner

Personal Ministry Assessment		Head of Household	Spouse (If Applicable)
<b>Last Name:</b>	<b>First Name:</b>		
<b>Dominant Motivational Gift</b>			
<b>Secondary Motivational Gift</b>			
<b>Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12) I have used in my life so far</b>			
<i>Tongues</i>			
<i>Prophecy</i>			
<i>Interpretation of Tongues</i>			
<i>Faith</i>			
<i>Miracles</i>			
<i>Healings</i>			
<i>Word of Wisdom</i>			
<i>Word of Knowledge</i>			
<i>Discerning of Spirits</i>			
<b>My Heart for Ministry – what I love or want to do in the Kingdom</b>			
<b>Another thing that is extremely important to me.</b>			
<b>Special Abilities or Skills I Possess</b>			
<b>Another skill or ability I have</b>			
<b>My Basic Personality Type</b>			
<i>Choleric – Dominant, commanding, take charge type</i>			
<i>Phlegmatic – Passive, quiet follower, not pushy, easy to get along with</i>			
<i>Sanguine – Cheerful, bold, attention lover, star of the show</i>			
<i>Melancholy – Sensitive, moody, artistic, perfectionist</i>			
<b>Life Shaping Experience</b>			
<b>Another such experience</b>			
<b>Parts of the Vision Statement that Excite Me</b>			
<i>Equip Disciples</i>			
<i>Plant Churches</i>			
<i>Share the Gospel</i>			
<i>Assist Other Ministries</i>			
<i>Bless Our Community</i>			
<i>Minister Healing</i>			
<b>Where I Might Fit into the Ministry at Liberty Church</b>			
<b>Suggestion 2</b>			
<b>Suggestion 3</b>			
<b>Suggestion 4</b>			



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### Part Three: The Local Church

God's purpose for mankind in redemption is inextricably linked to the church. The church is that group of "called out ones" who have been set apart to be Christ's bride and for God's purposes in order to advance his kingdom upon the earth. We are privileged to manifest God's wisdom to all of creation. (Eph.3:10-11) The church is the temple of the Holy Spirit (Eph.2:19-22). The church is made up of people, not buildings. It is God's household, the pillar and foundation of the truth. (1Ti.3:15) The church includes men, women, and children from every people group on the earth, both Jews and Gentiles. In Christ, the Father has knocked down every separating wall to fashion one family that has been reconciled to Abba Father, people from every culture, race, and socio-economic group.

Jesus died for the church: it is His Bride! We are precious to God and hated by Satan. The church is God's vehicle for spreading in His Kingdom upon the earth through the preaching of the gospel and making of disciples from all nations. The church is Plan A, and there is no Plan B. Therefore, church planting is the God-given means of extending the Kingdom of God on the earth. Jesus is building His church and nothing will stop Him!

*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. **Matthew 16:18 (NET1)***

In the last days God will likely do special things with the geographical/political nation of Israel; but it is important for us to avoid the error of promoting any spiritual distinction between Jew and Gentile as far as the church is concerned. All believers are children of Abraham by faith, whether or not we live in Israel.

*Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, 7 so then, understand that those who believe are the sons of Abraham. **Galatians 3:6-7 (NET1)***

The church has been put here on earth to extend the ministry of Jesus through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. We are to share His ministry of liberating the oppressed by the authority and power of the indwelling Spirit.

*I tell you the solemn truth, the person who believes in me will perform the miraculous deeds that I am doing, and will perform greater deeds than these, because I am going to the Father.*

**John 14:12 (NET1)**



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

As children of God, all believers have authority and anointing in Christ. We must all learn to operate in our gifts and callings that come from God as individuals, and we must also learn how to relate as a team within the local church.

God gives people various roles to play in life, which may change over time. These roles have nothing to do with our intrinsic value before God, but they have much to do with how we should relate to one another here on earth. Some roles are gender-based. For example, only a woman can conceive and give birth to a child, thus becoming a mother. Only a man is privileged to know what it means to be a husband and father. Likewise, some roles are authority related. Some people are “bosses”, while others are “employees”. In the church, some have roles of authority, while others serve as those who are “under” authority. Let’s discuss these concepts in greater detail.

### Governmental Authority in the Church

In the church, those who have governmental oversight have received authority from God to shepherd the sheep. In God’s kingdom, all leading is a form of serving. Leaders serve God and the church by willingly assuming the responsibility of oversight, which involves leading, protecting, feeding, and caring for the sheep. This great responsibility requires the necessary grace and authority from God to carry it out. Nothing is more frustrating than to have responsibilities without having the authority to fulfill them. Those in oversight are commanded by God to reprove, rebuke, and encourage as needed, using God’s Word as the basis and the leading of the Spirit for direction. (2Tim.4:2) This is a sobering responsibility that requires grace from God. A leader is to see his charge as being an expression of God’s truth and mercy coming together to help people grow in their faith relationship with God, resulting in spiritual transformation and fruitfulness in service. Below are some scripture verses that show the nature of the relationship between governmental oversight and those in the church under their care.

*Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls and will give an account for their work. Let them do this with joy and not with complaints, for this would be no advantage for you. **Hebrews 13:17 (NET1)***

So, since Christ suffered in the flesh, you also arm yourselves with the same attitude, because the one who has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin,<sup>2</sup> in that he spends the rest of his time on earth concerned about the will of God and not human desires.<sup>3</sup> For the time that has passed was sufficient for you to do what the non-Christians desire. You lived then in



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

debauchery, evil desires, drunkenness, carousing, drinking bouts, and wanton idolatries. <sup>4</sup> So they are astonished when you do not rush with them into the same flood of wickedness, and they vilify you. **1 Peter 4:1-4 (NET1)**

At Liberty Church, we believe God has revealed in his Word that the church is to be governed by elders, who have direct responsibility for overseeing a local church and individual sheep, under the leadership of a "lead elder" who has a 5-fold ministry anointing. In the American church, the lead elder is usually called a "pastor", even though his main spiritual gift may be one of the other five-fold ministry gifts – apostle, prophet, evangelist or teacher. "Under" the elders are various persons serving roles of delegated authority. This would include anyone serving in any leadership capacity, from small group leaders to nursery workers. Those in delegated authority serve Christ first of all and the elders and pastor secondarily. In the local church setting it is vital that those who have delegated authority understand that they serve by the permission of the elders and should honor them by showing proper respect and deference. The role of authority is to get under and behind those they oversee to assist them to become all they can be and do all God has called them to do. Those in oversight are trying to work themselves out of a job, so to speak, by helping others come to full maturity in Christ. Just as a father trains and prepares his children to be self-governing and responsible adults, church oversight prepares people to have a mature relationship with Christ.

### **Some Important Principles Relating to Godly Authority**

Every Christian is a servant by definition. Those who do not serve Christ and the church as an overseer or leader, by default serve in some other way. Christ came to serve rather than be served. (Mark 10:45) How much more is that true for us his disciples! We might define ministry as service to others through using the gifts we receive from Christ. It is important to note that having a wonderful ministry gift is not an automatic qualification for oversight. For example, a person who can teach well is not necessarily called to be an elder; although, an elder is required to be able to teach others, but perhaps not with a strong teaching gift from the pulpit. In a similar fashion, a wife may have better administrative skills than her husband, but that does not give make her the head of the family. We must maintain the distinction between gifts and oversight authority.

Below are some more principles related to the proper functioning of authority in the church.

1. **All authority comes from God.** God shares His authority with men. This is called delegated authority.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except by God's appointment, and the authorities that exist have been instituted by God.*

**Romans 13:1 (NET1)**

*Be subject to every human institution for the Lord's sake, whether to a king as supreme 14 or to governors as those he commissions to punish wrongdoers and praise those who do good. 15 For God wants you to silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good.*

**1 Peter 2:13-15 (NET1)**

### 2. The Nature of Authority

- **Purpose:** provides loving protection, guidance, leadership, service, & nurture, all of which is derived from God and modeled by Jesus.
  - Headship – source, director, coordinator (Eph.5:23). To provide a channel through which God's life and authority can flow.
  - Savior - protector, deliverer, preserver (Eph.5:23,28-29)
  - Lord - master, boss (1Pe.3:6)
- **Plurality of counsel:** a wise leader confers with wise counselors and seeks to make decisions that promote and preserve unity whenever possible. (Pro.11:14; 15:22; 24:6)
  - Lord and Leaders must humble themselves to listen to counsel that may contradict their desires.
  - Followers need to learn the art of making proper input to leaders, especially how to make an appeal.
  - Leadership should be followed except when doing so would produce disobedience to God or damage the follower's conscience. Such disobedience should be carefully done since it is vital that a proper heart attitude be maintained throughout and obedience kept wherever possible. Conscientious disobedience is not a license for rebellion. (e.g. David's and Saul, Daniel and Darius)
  - When it is necessary to correct or discipline leaders, great care should be taken not to violate God's principles. Generally speaking, a subordinate should never discipline one in authority. Find another who has authority over your authority and plead your case. In some cases, you must rely upon the have great patience. (e.g. David and Saul, Abigail and Nabal)

*Slaves, be subject to your masters with all reverence, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are perverse. 1 Peter 2:18 (NET1)*



# Becoming a Kingdom Partner

- **Servant leadership**

- Jesus made it clear that we are to lead by serving and through our example.

*But Jesus called them and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions use their authority over them. 26 It must not be this way among you! Instead whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave — 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* **Matthew 20:25-28 (NET1)**

- Sacrificial love is the key.

Loving Leadership	Domineering Leadership
Leads towards God's goals	Leads toward self-centered goals
Has others' best interests in mind	Has personal interests in mind
Recognizes others' limitations	Drives others beyond their limitations
Demonstrates personal concern	Takes people for granted
Shows sacrificial love	Takes advantage of people
Releases others' potential	Stifles others' development
Humble channel for God's authority	Proclaims self-assumed authority
Open to correction	Not adjustable
Values others' opinions	Ignores others' opinions
Humble spirit	Air of superiority
Servant's heart	Expects to be served
Gives credit where it's due	Takes credit belonging to others
Brings others to maturity	Makes others dependent
Uses discipline to help and instruct	Uses discipline too harshly

### 3. The Nature of Submission

- **Definition:** To subordinate oneself; to put yourself under another; to yield to the authority of another; to surrender; to defer to the judgment or discretion of another; to yield the option of leading in order to follow for the sake of promoting order and unity and to bring out the best in the one we are following.
- **Submission requires faith** that is able to see God behind the person in authority. Submission is first and foremost unto God, and secondarily unto the person in authority. (e.g. Jesus' submission to the authority vested in Pilate & David's to Saul)



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except by God's appointment, and the authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Romans 13:1 (NET1)*

- **Submission requires humility.** It is not an admission of the authority's greater intrinsic value or standing in the eyes of God, but an acknowledgment of his or her position of authority and function which requires yielding to as unto God. Even within the Trinity we find this kind of submission between the Persons of the Godhead. The Son submits to the Father (1Co.15:24), and the Spirit submits to the Son (John 16:14). If God can submit to God when He is equal to God, then we can submit to another human under God.

*and submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 (NET1)*

*You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had, 6 who though he existed in the form of God did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself by taking on the form of a slave, by looking like other men, and by sharing in human nature. 8 He humbled himself, by becoming obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5-8 (NET1)*

- **Submission is God's road to blessing and exaltation.**

*As a result God exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, Philippians 2:9 (NET1)*

- Effective Submission vs. A Wrong Attitude

Effective Submission	Rebellious Attitude
Seeks overseer's best interest	Seeks self-interest
Respects and appreciates authority	Resents and criticizes authority
Promotes overseer's plans	Seeks to validate own opinions
Complies internally and externally	Complies externally only
Receives and responds to correction	Resists adjustment and correction
Serves wholeheartedly	Serves half-heartedly or not at all
Looks for input from oversight	Evades receiving input
Communicates well with oversight	Operates without communicating
Takes initiative while staying within vision and goals of oversight	Takes initiative to accomplish own agenda
Encourages others to be in right relationship with authority	Discourages others in their relationship with authority



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### Part Four: Making Disciples

Discipleship can only take place where there is a proper understanding and practice of godly authority and submission. Discipleship is intertwined with Christ's Lordship. Its purpose is to teach people to obey Christ, and it is impossible to obey God without having learned to obey his delegated authority at home, work, school, government and the church. We must teach people to obey God first and foremost and to obey his delegated authority in every instance where it does not violate conscience or God's Word. Likewise those in oversight must be taught to exercise their authority within the limits ordained by God to help others grow to maturity and not to enslave or otherwise dominate them.

Discipleship takes place within the context of relationship. Jesus selected a small band of men to be with him, learn from him and be trained for ministry. Eventually these men were sent out "on their own" as representatives and extensions of the One who disciplined them. We are disciple by being in relationship with another who shares his life, faith, doctrine, skills and wisdom with us. Paul disciplined others in this way.

*You, however, have followed my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, my endurance, 11 as well as the persecutions and sufferings that happened to me in Antioch, in Iconium, and in Lystra. I endured these persecutions and the Lord delivered me from them all. 12 Now in fact all who want to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 13 But evil people and charlatans will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves. 14 You, however, must continue in the things you have learned and are confident about. You know who taught you*

**2 Timothy 3:10-14 (NET1)**

It should be obvious, then, that we can only disciple others with whom we have a relationship of trust and respect. The disciple must believe the one discipling him or her has something worth learning and a life worth following. There are three types of discipleship relationships – disciple to discipler (when you are looking to another to train you), peer to peer (when two "equal" persons mutually encourage and challenge one another to serve God), and discipler to disciple (when you are training another person). In your early years as a Christian, you should work towards being in all three types of discipleship relationships. Later, when you become a more of a "father" or "mother" in the faith, you may no longer have the privilege of being disciplined; since, you may be more mature than most.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

Discipleship can take place in a variety of ways, but it always involves relationship. Some disciple by “osmosis”, in which case what they know and believe is transferred over time without any thought being given to structure. In the course of living life, opportunities abound for sharing how the Scriptures apply to situations. Problems arise that need answers. We end up sharing our faith in very natural ways. This is often largely what happens in the home between parents and children; although, systematic training is needed as well.

Discipleship can also be much more structured and planned. One way is in the context of small groups where believers gather regularly to share times of worship, prayer, Bible study, ministry and testimony. This format gives a set time for addressing these essential areas involved with Christian growth. Small groups also foster relationship building by giving people added times of fellowship for building trust and support.

Another valid and profitable way of discipling people is in even smaller units whose only focus is discipleship. The POD (Priority One Discipleship) materials are designed to be used in this context (but can also serve as the focal point for small group studies). The POD study is based on the gospel of John and is divided into a series of short studies that will take approximately one and a half to two years to cover if one lesson is done each week. The idea is that John’s gospel was written to introduce disciples to Christ. Each lesson contains a memory verse, a short teaching, an application, a section on how to use what has been learned when sharing with others, and a set of questions related to spiritual growth and the current lesson. Those who enter the POD program are mentored by someone and are encouraged to begin sharing what they are learning with others as soon as possible. The hope is that we will see several “generations” of disciples developed.

No matter how you are discipled and disciple others, it is important that you see and put this most important principle to work. It is impossible to fulfill the Great Commission without making discipleship a top priority in your life.

### **More about Small Groups**

There are many different models of small group structure and function floating around in the body of Christ today. Each purports to be “the” correct and Biblical way. Over the years our heart has been to investigate the various models to see what God wants us to use at Liberty. As a result of our search and after many years of continued use, we have adopted what some call a “free market” approach. This strategy allows members of the church to develop and lead



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

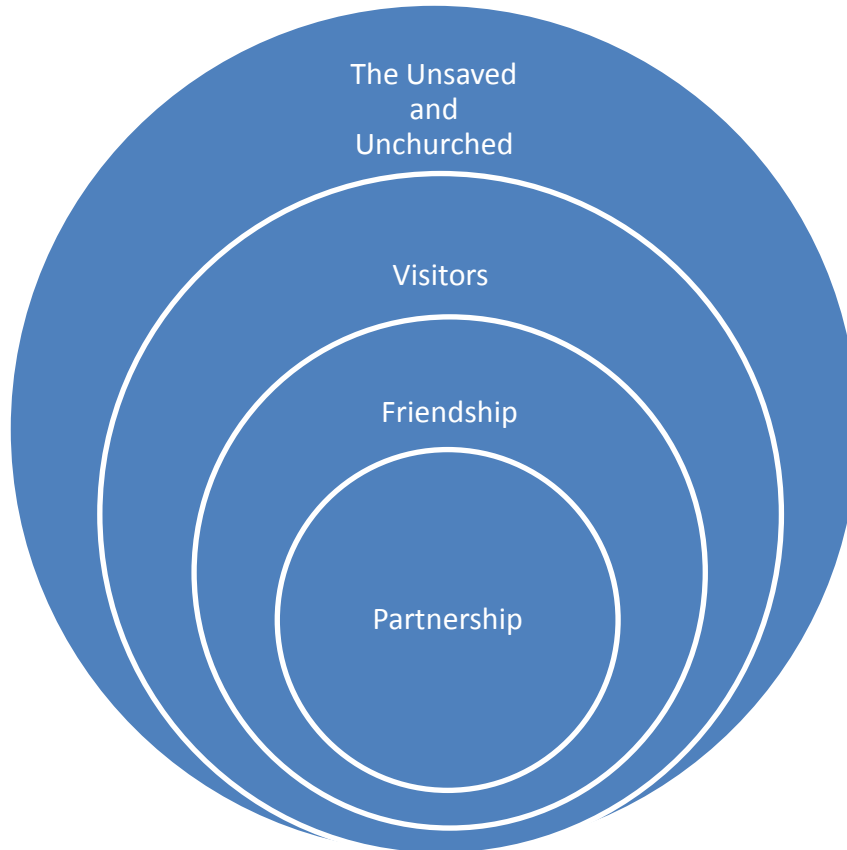
groups based on their personal gifts and interests. As long as people are encouraged to grow in Christ and God is glorified, any group will be encouraged. We have had all sorts of groups ranging from sewing and scrapbooking to prayer groups and Bible studies. The traditional “cell group” is also an option. We do not try to “pigeon hole” our people into a set structure for our groups. Instead we give room for individual creativity, initiative and the leading of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, we remain open to instruction, improvement and change. May the Lord direct us into his perfect will in this matter.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### Part Five: An Overview of Kingdom Partnership

A church can be viewed conceptually as a series of concentric circles. The inner circles represent greater involvement and commitment. The outer ones represent less.



At Liberty Church, each level of relationship is defined. This helps people know at what level they can choose to relate to the church, and it helps the church leadership to understand its people better so we can know to whom to entrust key ministry responsibilities. We define these relationship levels as follows:

1. **Visitors**—These are people who are just “checking us out”. They have no level of commitment or connectedness...yet. They feel no obligation to come to meetings, support the work, or to relate with others.
2. **Friends**—These people have made a heart commitment of some nature to attend meetings and are generally with us, but, at present, they are unwilling or unable to become kingdom partners. There can be many reasons why a person may not wish to commit in a deeper way. Perhaps they have been hurt in a previous church, or maybe they disagree with



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

making a formal membership commitment to churches in principle due to some doctrinal point of view. Or maybe God has not yet assured them in their hearts to take this sort of step. Whatever the reason, we never want those who choose to remain at this level to feel any pressure to make a deeper commitment; although, it is our hope that more and more will see the value of becoming a kingdom partner. People who opt for the friendship level of commitment are encouraged to participate in our discipleship PODs and small groups and any form of service ministry and outreach, including working in the nursery, greeting, hospitality, mowing, etc. The only areas of ministry not open to “friends” would involve leadership, the ministry of the Word, and pastoral ministry. Of course, our six-month policy is always in effect, regardless of the level of commitment.

3. **Kingdom Partners**—These folks have been through the Kingdom Partnership Class, understand what is involved with partnership and have made the commitment. We believe that taking this step is a way of saying, “We are with you with all our might.” When people take this step, it assures the leadership that they can be safely trusted with greater ministry responsibilities in the church. The next section will address this topic in more detail.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

### Part Six: The Partnership Pledge

This purpose of this section is to go over the details of the *Partnership Pledge*. You are asked to carefully consider its contents, ask any questions you may have, and, if you agree, sign it at the end of the class. By doing so, you will make known your desire to become a kingdom partner at Liberty Church. As a partner you will be placing yourself in the "same boat" as all the other partners, committing yourself to the Lord, asking His grace to help you to faithfully uphold your end of the agreement. The church, by accepting your request for partnership, pledges to support you as you continue your pursuit of God and his will for your life. Together we can accomplish much.

This pledge challenges us to the kind of commitment that Jesus expects us to make as members of his kingdom. Your commitment is really to Him first and then secondly to His church. We have a commitment to the body of Christ at large, but ultimately our lives find expression in a local church. It is only in the context of a local assembly that the practicalities of the Christian life are worked out. Becoming a partner does not give you a special spiritual status or superiority. In essence you are committing yourself to a higher level of service. Servanthood is the essence of partnership. We believe that a person's individual calling will most likely be fulfilled as he or she serves in the Body of Christ.

### The Partnership Pledge

*God intends for us all to be part of a family. The church is an eternal family where the love of the Heavenly Father can be experienced by his children. Being part of God's family is a big commitment which forces us to rely on God's grace in order to love consistently and to serve unselfishly. Partnering in a local church is vital to our spiritual growth since it is in this context that we learn to walk out the spiritual principles and values found in the Bible. The entire congregation benefits when individuals make firm commitments to the local church as a whole and to the other individual members. (Nehemiah 9:38)*

### Declaration

With this in mind, I make the following statement as a way of expressing my commitment to partnering with Liberty Church to be faithful by *Loving God, Loving People and Making Disciples*. I have received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and have been baptized in water. I have attended the Kingdom Partnership Class, agree to be governed by the church's *Scriptural Government and Bylaws*, and now wish to become a Kingdom Partner. Relying on the Lord's help, I agree to do the following:

1. I will support the church's Purpose and Vision to Love God, Love People and Make Disciples by
  - Living my life in obedience to Christ's Lordship as an act of worship by relying on the Holy Spirit, God's promises and His wonderful enabling grace.



# Becoming a Kingdom Partner

- Studying the Bible and making it my infallible guide for faith and practice.
  - Making worship a priority in my life.
  - Praying regularly for the church and for those whom we serve.
  - Obeying the Great Commission by sharing the Gospel and making disciples..
  - Seeking to build authentic life-giving relationships with other members of the church.
  - Serving in some ministry of the church.
2. I will seek to protect the unity of Liberty Church by
    - Refusing to gossip or participate in complaining.
    - Seeking to Biblically resolve any relational problems I may have.
    - Working as part of a team.
  3. I will love, support and follow the leadership of the pastors and elders of Liberty Church, whom I recognize to be my shepherds and overseers in the faith under Christ Jesus.
  4. I will financially support the church with my tithes and offerings on a regular basis.

Signed

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

We, the pastor and elders, warmly receive the above named person(s) as Kingdom Partners at Liberty Church. We commit to shepherd and feed the members of the flock, encourage their spiritual growth, equip them for ministry, and release them to fulfill their God-given mission in life.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Why We Ask You to Sign Something

We ask you to sign the *Agreement* as a means of expressing the commitment that is in your heart towards Liberty Church. Your signature is no more binding than verbal assent, but is more easily remembered since you will have the document in your possession to remind you of your decision. There is Biblical precedent for signing such agreements. Nehemiah 9:38 describes one such instance.

*“Because of all of this we are entering into a binding covenant in written form; our leaders, our Levites, and our priests have affixed their names on the sealed document.”*

**Nehemiah 9:38 (NET1)**

We hope you will not view this exercise as anything superficial or legalistic, but, rather, as we intend it, as something serious and potentially life-transforming, something worth doing and



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

keeping. In the following paragraphs, we will look at the different parts of the *Agreement*.

### **Sharing Responsibility for the Great Commission**

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* **Matthew 28:19-20 (NET1)**

We ask all Kingdom Partners to be Kingdom oriented in their outreach and also be working for the growth of this local church.

### **Supporting the Ministry of the Church**

*Now you are Christ’s body, and each of you is a member of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, gifts of healing, helps, gifts of leadership, different kinds of tongues. 29 Not all are apostles, are they? Not all are prophets, are they? Not all are teachers, are they? Not all perform miracles, do they? 30 Not all have gifts of healing, do they? Not all speak in tongues, do they? Not all interpret, do they? 31 But you should be eager for the greater gifts. And now I will show you a way that is beyond comparison.*

**1 Corinthians 12:27-31 (NET1)**

We ask Kingdom Partners to take serving God, others and the church seriously. Partnership is a decision to move from being a spectator into the front lines. We will do our best to show you how to serve better and to have a team mindset.

### **Upholding the Testimony of the Church**

*I, therefore, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live worthily of the calling with which you have been called,* **Ephesians 4:1 (NET1)**

Upholding the church's testimony is all about how others observe your love for God and people and your commitment to Christ and the local church. Your words and actions should demonstrate both. Personal holy living and spiritual growth testify to your commitment to the Lord, and faithful attendance and support of the church indicate your commitment to her.

The Bible teaches that we are to give a minimum of a tenth of our income to the Lord. We are



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

to bring it to the “storehouse”, which we believe can be interpreted to be the local church. It certainly was in the book of Acts. In addition, the Lord encourages us to give offerings as he directs. Partnership stipulates that you commit to regularly support the church with your finances, but we encourage you to be obedient to the Lord by tithing and giving offerings, too.

*Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (Now he was the priest of the Most High God.) 19 He blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by the Most High God, Creator of heaven and earth. 20 Worthy of praise is the Most High God, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” 21 Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people and take the possessions for yourself.”* **Genesis 14:18-21 (NET1)**

*“Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my temple. Test me in this matter,” says the Lord who rules over all, “to see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until there is no room for it all.* **Malachi 3:10 (NET1)**

*“Woe to you, experts in the law and you Pharisees, hypocrites! You give a tenth of mint, dill, and cumin, yet you neglect what is more important in the law — justice, mercy, and faithfulness! You should have done these things without neglecting the others.* **Matthew 23:23 (NET1)**

### Protecting Unity

*I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to agree together, to end your divisions, and to be united by the same mind and purpose.* **1 Corinthians 1:10 (NET1)**

Unity is the glue that holds the church together. When we have it, everything works better. God commands a blessing where people dwell in unity. Conversely, where unity is absent, it is because something else is present, sin and discord. Satan and his forces work hard to destroy the unity of churches; therefore, we must be vigilant to resist his attempts to divide us. Preserving unity requires a conscious effort, and the principles mentioned in the *Agreement* are very important. We expect Partners, with God’s help, to seek to apply them continuously.

### Supporting and Following Leadership

*Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls and will give an account for their work. Let them do this with joy and not with complaints, for this would be no advantage for you.* **Hebrews 13:17 (NET1)**



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

Creating and maintaining a proper relationship with those who have leadership responsibility is absolutely crucial for your own and the church's well-being. As a Kingdom Partner, you are agreeing to properly communicate with people in leadership and to follow and support them. Those who have leadership and oversight responsibilities in the church strive to have a servant orientation and have no desire to lord it over you in any way. We want to make it as easy as possible for you to be in proper relationship. However, there will inevitably be disagreements and conflicts; and, when this happens, you should make up your mind to be a person who stays in proper relationship with those in authority. Such an attitude will pay tremendous dividends to you and the church down the road. We all reap what we sow. If you want others to properly relate to you when you have oversight, you must do the same to those who oversee you.

When anyone agrees to become a Kingdom Partner, he or she is recognizing that the local pastor is his or her shepherd under Christ. The local pastor has responsibility to equip the church for doing ministry, and to feed, lead and protect. This ministry is shared with the elders and others who have pastoral gifts in the church, such as small group leaders. Supporting and following the counsel and teaching of the local leadership is part of the responsibility of Kingdom Partners. Of course this never negates the responsibility of each person to personally seek God and judge things individually. We all will answer to God for our own lives, but we will also answer for how we related to oversight. This is a serious matter. Sheep-shepherd relationships are made by the Holy Spirit and cannot be feigned. Your agreement to become a partner is an acknowledgment that such a relationship exists and that you choose to do your part to make it work.

### **The Commitment of the Pastor and Elders**

Just as Kingdom Partners will answer to God for how they relate to God-ordained church leadership, the pastor, elders and other church leaders and ministers are accountable to God for how they care for the flock under their oversight. Please keep them in your prayers as they undertake to be faithful to the Lord and to you in this matter. Your support makes all the difference. We desire to help you grow into full maturity in the Lord and equip you for all that God has for you to be and to do. The church's destiny will only be fulfilled if each of us individually fulfills God's purpose for our individual lives and families.

### **How to Leave a Church**

When people consider joining a church, there are several things to consider.



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

1. **Do you agree with its doctrine, at least in the essentials?** If there are differences between what is taught and what you believe, are these matters of conscience with you? If so, you could not be a part of that church.
2. **Can you support the mission of the church?** If you are going to be an integral part of what the church doing, you must be in agreement with its mission.
3. **Do you respect and can you follow the pastoral leadership of the church?** There is no point in joining a church if you are out of sync with the leadership.
4. **Is the Holy Spirit leading you to become a part of that particular church?** This is an intangible. There is a certain almost indefinable bond that exists between a pastor and his sheep. There should be a sense that God has put you in and with a local church body. This will help you endure during times of relational stress.

If all four questions cannot be answered with a “Yes”, it is questionable that you are making a good decision. Likewise, if you are currently a part of a church where these four considerations cannot be affirmed, it may be time to move on.

Leaving a church is never a light or easy thing. Many may feel a sense of betrayal. Misunderstanding may surface. When you join a church, you agree to submit your life to the care of the pastor and elders. When you leave, you withdraw that permission. This is something to be done only after much prayer and waiting on God. If it is possible to resolve your issues and stay, that is often the best way. However, if over time it becomes clear that the differences cannot be resolved, there should be communication with church leadership about the desire to depart and why. In fact, it is best to consult with leadership when these kinds of issues first surface in order to receive their assistance in the resolution process, rather than waiting to tell them of your decision after it has already been made. Care should always be taken to avoid speaking negatively about the church or its leadership. No good fruit ever comes from that. It is also unethical to influence others to leave with you, unless some sort of serious sin is present in the church leadership or the teaching is outright heresy. And, lastly, when possible, a public farewell blessing at a church meeting is a fitting way to terminate the official relationship with the church. Just disappearing with no explanation is usually the mark of spiritual and relational immaturity and keeps others from obtaining any sort of closure. If your relationship with church leadership is good enough, you may even request that the church send a letter of recommendation to the new church in your behalf.

As a church leader, I realize that not everyone will stay in our local church. When people do leave, I deeply regret when it done because of an unreconciled offense. I also feel badly when people depart but fail to get involved in another local assembly. Past hurts are no excuse for



## Becoming a Kingdom Partner

refusing to ever make a commitment again. If need be, take some time to allow the Lord to heal you, but do it while at least being semi-connected in a church. You may even want to inform the pastor that you just need a place to “hang out” while God works healing in your life. Be aggressive. Go after God’s restorative power in your life.

### **Conclusion**

Thank you for giving your time to learn more about the church. I hope that we will be able to partner together for the sake of God’s Kingdom and its local expression here at Liberty Church. Please carefully consider what you have learned. Afterwards we hope you will make the commitment to be a Kingdom Partner. Regardless of what you decide, we want you to know that you are appreciated now and will be in the future. We welcome your participation at whatever level you are able to give yourself. May God richly bless you!

**Pastor Pete Beck III**