

*Home*  
CHURCH

**MEMBERSHIP LIFESTYLE COMMITMENT**

## MEMBERSHIP LIFESTYLE COMMITMENT

*At Home Church, membership is not about pretending to be perfect, it's about walking openly, obediently, and repentantly with Jesus in the context of a local church.*

The Membership Lifestyle Commitment exists so that:

- The gospel remains clear
- Pastors can shepherd wisely
- Members can walk in integrity
- The church's witness is protected

These expectations are not about earning salvation, but about living out salvation together.

### 1. Clear Profession of Faith

Membership at Home Church is for born-again believers in Jesus Christ. Members should be able to articulate:

- Who Jesus is
- What He has done through the cross and resurrection
- How salvation is received by grace through faith

If someone is unable to clearly express their faith, this becomes an opportunity for pastoral care and discipleship prior to membership.

### 2. Personal Salvation Experience

While every salvation story looks different, members should be able to describe their:

- Awareness of sin
- Repentance and faith in Christ
- Evidence of spiritual transformation (desire for Christ, repentance, obedience)

### 3. Water Baptism (or Pursuing Baptism)

Home Church believes water baptism is a command of Jesus, a public declaration of faith, and an act of obedience, not a means of salvation.

Members must either:

- Be water baptized as believers
- Or
- Be actively seeking baptism through Home Church



#### **4. Sexual Integrity**

Home Church affirms that God designed sexual intimacy to be expressed only within the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman. We believe obedience flows from grace, and sometimes requires loving, courageous change.

Members are expected to:

- Refrain from cohabitating outside of marriage

Those pursuing membership while cohabitating will be invited into pastoral conversation and guided toward wise, grace-filled next steps.

#### **5. View of Marriage**

Home Church believes marriage is:

- Instituted by God
- A lifelong covenant
- Between one biological man and one biological woman
- Designed to reflect Christ and the Church

Home Church affirms Scripture teaches divorce is permissible only in cases of:

- Sexual immorality
- Abandonment
- Abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual)

Members are expected to:

- Uphold biblical marriage
- Seek pastoral counsel in marital conflict
- Pursue reconciliation wherever possible

#### **6. Repentance, Not Perfection**

Membership does not require sinlessness, but it does require repentance. Members are expected to:

- Walk in the light
- Confess sin when confronted
- Respond humbly to biblical correction
- Desire growth in holiness

Unrepentant, ongoing sin is incompatible with covenant membership, not because God withholds grace, but because the heart resists it.



## **7. A Willingness to Be Shepherded**

Membership at Home Church means welcoming:

- Pastoral care
- Biblical counsel
- Correction when necessary
- Restoration when brokenness occurs

## **8. Unity, Witness, and Conduct**

Members are expected to:

- Guard the unity of the church
- Speak truth in love
- Avoid gossip and division
- Represent Christ well inside and outside the church

Our lives preach, whether we intend them to or not.

*Membership is not a test to pass, but a covenant to enter with clarity and grace. We would rather slow the process, walk with you intentionally, and provide discipleship and support than rush into a covenant you're not ready to carry. If you have questions, concerns, or hesitations, we want to talk.*

*Please email us at [info@myhomechurch.live](mailto:info@myhomechurch.live).*



## FAQs

### **Can I attend Home Church without becoming a member?**

Yes, attendance does not require membership. However, membership is required for leadership roles, teaching positions, and certain forms of spiritual authority and influence. Membership clarifies responsibility and care, for both you and the church.

### **What if I'm not living perfectly right now?**

You do not need to be perfect to become a member, but you must be repentant, teachable, and moving toward obedience. Membership is not for people who never struggle; it is for people who walk in the light and are willing to be shepherded.

### **What happens if I fall into serious sin after becoming a member?**

The church's response is private, pastoral, and redemptive. The goal is always restoration, never embarrassment or punishment. Unrepentant, ongoing sin may lead to loving discipline, not to push someone away, but to call them back.

### **What if I'm cohabitating but want to follow Jesus?**

If you are currently living with someone outside of marriage, we do not shame or reject you. However, covenant membership requires alignment with biblical sexual ethics. We will walk with you pastorally, discuss next steps toward obedience, and help create a wise, grace-filled plan forward. Membership may be delayed, not denied, while alignment is pursued.

### **Can I become a member if I've never been baptized?**

Yes, if you are willing and actively pursuing baptism. In the New Testament, baptism follows a personal decision to follow Jesus. If you have not been baptized since placing your faith in Christ, baptism is a required step for membership, and we would be honored to walk with you through it.

### **What if I was baptized as an infant?**

We honor the sincerity of your upbringing and faith journey. However, Home Church practices believer's baptism, which follows a personal profession of faith. If you were baptized as an infant and have since come to faith in Christ, we encourage baptism as a believer as your public declaration of faith.



**What if I struggle with addiction, pornography, or other ongoing sin?**

Struggle does not disqualify you from membership, choosing secrecy and refusing help does. When you are honest, willing to pursue healing, and open to accountability and discipleship, the church exists to walk alongside you.

**What if I disagree with something Home Church teaches?**

We do not require agreement on every secondary issue. However, membership does mean affirming Home Church's core beliefs, respecting its leadership and teaching, and protecting unity by not creating division or confusion. If concerns arise, we ask that you first pray, then speak directly with our elders, and seek unity rather than influence.

**What if I'm divorced or remarried?**

Divorce and remarriage are often complex and painful. We approach these situations with pastoral care, not assumptions. Membership is not determined by marital history, but by biblical understanding, repentance where necessary, and a willingness to walk in accountability.

**What if I am interested in membership, but my spouse is not?**

We encourage spouses to discuss membership together, understanding that people are in different places in their faith journey. If you wish to pursue membership but your spouse does not, you are still welcome to apply. Your membership will not be denied based on your spouse's interest. We encourage you to share this information on your application so our Elders can support you along the way.

**What if I'm just not ready for membership yet?**

That's okay. Membership is a covenant, not a crowd decision. We would rather walk with you longer, disciple intentionally, and answer your questions thoroughly than rush you into something you're not ready to commit to.

