

Bill of Rights and Responsibilities for Baptist Churches

Our church, collectively and individually, has the right to expect from our pastor the following characteristics and actions. But, we also recognize that each right carries with it corresponding responsibilities:

1. *Biblical grounded, doctrinally sound sermons*

But we are responsible to study the Bible and grow spiritually so that our pastor will be able to move us from a diet of milk to one of the meat of the Word.

2. *Pastoral care*

But we have the responsibility to let the pastor know when we are in need of ministry from him and from the deacons. Further, we must join him in providing care to the members of the church.

3. *Evangelism of the lost and outreach to the unchurched*

But we have the responsibility to go with our pastor. And when he finds our personal and corporate faults to be an excuse used by the lost and unchurched, we must take corrective measures and clean up our lives and make peace with others.

4. *Prayer support*

But we have the responsibility to support our pastor and our church with prayer.

5. *Spiritual maturity*

But even as we expect him to be growing toward being like "the Father" , we recognize our responsibility to be walking with him and encouraging him in this journey.

6. *Model family*

But we have the responsibility to also be godly families. And we have the need to provide support of a financial and spiritual nature that will enable him to have a godly family life.

7. *Personal Integrity*

But we too must be persons who are truthful, loyal, honest, fiscally responsible, and sexually pure.

8. *Worship, deep and soaring*

But we must prepare our hearts and minds for worship and we must participate actively in the event of worship, honoring God.

9. *Build up the fellowship*

Just as we expect our pastor to love each of us and the whole congregation

and tend to it carefully, we recognize our responsibility to join him in building up the fellowship..

10. *Leadership*

While we must collectively seek the will of God for our church, we expect our pastor to provide direction and guidance to the church as we actively seek to realize the will of God for our church as an outcropping or expression of His Kingdom.

Gary Farley
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