



COVENANT

We are a group of pastors of churches in Central Florida, who voluntarily submit themselves in the Lord Jesus to this fellowship. We are striving for a biblical culture, defined as a set of shared biblical attitudes, values, goals and practices, and this culture is understood as written here.

1. A Culture of Unity. We are the Church of South Lake county, comprised of many churches and ministries but ONE in Christ. We choose to value unity in the Spirit over our individual preferences. Philippians 2:1-8; Eph. 4:3, Ps 133:1-3, John 17:20-23
2. A Culture of Invitation. We invite all area pastors and churches who love the Lord Jesus Christ to join our fellowship.
3. A Culture of Love and Friendship. We befriend the other members of our fellowship and love them as we love ourselves. Matthew 22:39. We aspire even to lay down our lives for one another. John 15:13
4. A Culture of Holiness. We choose to walk in holiness and the fear of God. 2 Cor.7:1; Eph. 4:24
5. A Culture of Forgiveness. Offenses will come, but we will not walk in offense. Luke 17:1, Matt.6:12-14. We choose "preemptive" forgiveness, deciding in advance to forgive any potential offense even before it happens. Ps. 119:165
6. A Culture of Honor. Each pastor and the sovereign work of God in each church is honored and respected. Rom 12:10.
7. A Culture of Mutual Submission. We respect the gifting of each pastor and will submit to the Spirit of God in each other in the fear of God. Eph. 5:21
8. A Culture of Trust. "What is said here, stays here." Our meetings and conversations are safe places for our pastors to share their deepest concerns. Prov. 17:9, Prov. 11:13, Titus 3:2
9. A Culture Free of Jealousy. We do not actively solicit others to join our church or ministry if they are already attending a member church or network. If someone from one of the other churches within the group begins attending one of the other churches within the group, that pastor will communicate with their previous pastor to get their approval. We do not allow the sheep to cause division among us. 1 Cor 3:4-5, 1 Cor 1:12-13.
10. A Culture of Building God's Kingdom. We seek to make Jesus Lord in South Lake County as the Holy Spirit leads. We do not use the fellowship to promote our own church or ministry, but only our collective activities. Matt 6:33, 1Cor 3:10. We work together to see God's Kingdom come and His will be done in our area. Matthew 6:10
11. A Culture of Respect. We respect each pastor and the authority under which that pastor chooses to submit himself. We desire to supplement that authority with love, friendship, service and counsel. Matthew 20:25-28. Each pastor is encouraged to maintain relationships of accountability and confidence within the fellowship. Ultimately, how each pastor manages his life and ministry is between that pastor, the Lord Jesus, the congregation that pastor serves and the authority to which that pastor submits. Galatians 1:10, 15-17; 2 Cor.5:10; Hebrews 13:17.
12. A Culture of Spiritual Freedom. Speaking in tongues is not required to be part of this fellowship. However, we do not forbid the speaking in tongues. 1 Cor. 14:39. We encourage the expression of spiritual gifts as they are needed to strengthen us. 1 Cor. 14:26. All expressions of spiritual

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gifts in the meetings of this fellowship are to build up the body (1 Cor.14:3,12; 1 Cor.12:7) and will be peaceful, decent and in order. 1 Cor.14:33,40.

13. A Culture Free of Control or Compulsion. We do not require a membership fee, offering or tithe. Each pastor and church is exhorted to contribute to the group activities we agree to undertake. Matthew 6:21, 2 Cor.9:7.
14. A Culture of Reconciliation. We will lovingly and gently confront breaches of this covenant in the fear of the Lord. Galatians 6:1. We follow Jesus' protocol set out in Matthew 18:15-20 in order to gain and restore our brother, and to restore unity.

This is our commitment and expectation to each other as a part of South Lake Pastors' Fellowship. We will provide a Kingdom culture of love, unity, and accountability to one another.