

The Shepherd's Covenant

GUIDE

Micah 7:14; John 10:14



**FOCUS ON THE FAMILY
PASTORAL MINISTRIES**



Principles for Covenant Commitments

(Adapted from *Creative Love* by Louis Evans, Jr.)

COVENANT LOVE

The goal of a **Covenant Relationship** is for each person to grow into “the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). To encourage that growth in another person, we promise before God that we will, to the best of our ability:

1. **Affirm one another.** There is nothing that the other(s) can do or say that will make you stop loving them, even if you disagree with their actions.
2. **Be available to one another.** You will offer your time, energy, possessions, prayer and insights to them, within the limits of your known resources.
3. **Pray for one another.** You will set aside a regular time to bring their concerns before the Lord.
4. **Be open with one another.** You will endeavor to be as open as you can with your feelings, struggles, hurts, fears and joys.
5. **Be honest with one another.** You will commit to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15), even when it is difficult.
6. **Be sensitive to one another.** You will do your best to listen, observe, and discern real needs.
7. **Maintain confidentiality with one another.** You promise to guard what is shared within the confines of your spiritual partnership.
8. **Be accountable to one another.** You will be mutually responsible to them to nurture and encourage each other’s spiritual growth.

I/We hereby agree to be committed to this spiritual partnership. It is my/our intent to faithfully fulfill these privileges and responsibilities. It is my/our hope that this relationship will be a means of spiritual accountability in my growing faith in Jesus Christ.

H.B. London’s Prayer for You:

That the demands on your time will not threaten your intimacy with God.

That you will give adequate attention to your family as you seek to guide those within your congregation.

That you will find a colleague to join you in prayer for your ministry, family and your community.

That your preaching and teaching will not be tepid, but courageous and purposeful.

That the people you lead will respond to your passion and follow the Lord with great enthusiasm.

That America will wake up and realize that God’s call on your life and the message you speak cannot be ignored.

That you stay pure in every way; and when your ministry is over, you will finish strong.

- H.B. London

Pastoral Counseling Guidelines

Do not visit someone of the opposite sex alone at home.

Do not counsel someone of the opposite sex alone at the office.

Do not counsel a married person of the opposite sex more than once without the person's mate.

Do not dine alone with someone of the opposite sex.

Do not kiss someone of the opposite sex or show affection that could be questioned.

Do not discuss detailed sexual problems with someone of the opposite sex in counseling.

Do not discuss your marriage problems with someone of the opposite sex.

Be careful in answering cards and letters from someone of the opposite sex.

Make your secretary your protective ally.

Pray for the integrity of other staff members.

Prayer Shield by C. Peter Wagner (Ventura: Regal Books, 1992) pp. 194-195.

I MAKE A COVENANT WITH YOU...

The words, **“I will pray for you,”** are some of the most powerful and comforting words in the language of man. Here is what they mean...

“I covenant to pray for you regularly - believing that our caring Father wishes His children to pray for one another for both blessings and needs.”

Why?

- ... The prayer covenant is between two people (or more) who are seeking a special release of God's power in and on their lives.
- ... It is through intercessory prayer that God looses power and strength that are not otherwise available.

Particulars . . .

- ... The prayer covenant should be between those of the same sex.
- ... You find a person who you trust, and you enter into a covenant to pray for one another.
- ... The length of the covenant should be determined after you have entered into the prayer agreement.
- ... One never enters a prayer agreement with an air of superiority (“I don't need anything, thank you, but you do...”), but with an acknowledgement of mutual need.
- ... You agree to pray for one another each time you pray.
- ... When possible you meet together “face to face” for at least one half-hour a week.
- ... You attempt to make contact with your covenant partner at least twice more each week through the telephone, short visits or letter.
- ... You are never judgmental or condemning; but you are always supportive and helpful in true Christian honesty (James 5:16).

How?

In a covenantal/intercessory prayer relationship, we release the grace of God to another in a way that is not possible any other way.

Accountability Questions

John Wesley was so concerned with building a righteous fellowship that he devised a series of questions for his followers to ask each other every week. Today, Chuck Swindoll has seven questions that he and his staff use to periodically challenge one another:

Have you been with a woman anywhere this past week that might be seen as compromising?

Have any of your financial dealings lacked integrity?

Have you exposed yourself to any sexually explicit material?

Have you spent adequate time in Bible study and prayer?

Have you given priority time to your family?

Have you fulfilled the mandates of your calling?

Have you just lied to me?

Accountability is a hollow concept if it is not enforced. Conscientious pastors regularly submit their lives to small groups of spiritual mentors. Do you?

Paraphrased from *The Body* by Chuck Colson (Dallas: Word Books, 1992), pp. 130-131.

Accountability Questions Friends

Ask One Another

By H.B. London Jr.

Focus on the Family

1. How is your relationship with God right now?
2. What have you read in the Bible in the past week?
3. What has God said to you in this reading?
4. Where do you find yourself resisting Him these days?
5. What specific things are you praying for in regard to others?
6. What specific things are you praying for in regard to yourself?
7. What are the specific tasks facing you right now that you consider incomplete?
8. What habits intimidate you?
9. What have you read in the secular press this week?
10. What general reading are you doing?
11. What have you done to play?
12. How are you doing with your spouse? Kids?
13. If I were to ask your spouse about your state of mind, state of spirit, state of energy level, what would the response be?
14. Are you sensing any spiritual attacks from the enemy right now?
15. If Satan were to try to invalidate you as a person or as a servant of the Lord, how might he do it?
16. What is the state of your sexual perspective? Tempted? Dealing with fantasies? Questionable entertainment?
17. Where are you financially right now? Things under control? Anxious? In great debt?
18. Are there any unresolved conflicts in your circle of relationships right now?
19. When did you last spend time with a good same-sex friend?
20. Have you spent time with a non-Christian this past month?
21. What challenges will you face in the coming week? Month?
22. What are your current fears?
23. Are you sleeping well?
24. What three things are you most thankful for?
25. Do you like yourself at this point in time?
26. What are your greatest confusions or uncertainties about your relationship with God?

- *Rebuilding Your Broken World*