

## Bible Verses for Leader Covenant

### Introduction

**James 3:1** <sup>1</sup>Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

**1 Tim. 5:17** <sup>17</sup>The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

**Titus 1:5-8** <sup>5</sup>The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. <sup>6</sup>An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. <sup>7</sup>Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>8</sup>Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. <sup>9</sup>He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

**1 Peter 5:1-4** <sup>1</sup>To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: <sup>2</sup>Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; <sup>3</sup>not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

**Matthew 20:25-28** <sup>25</sup>Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup>Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup>and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup>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."

**Proverbs 12:15** <sup>15</sup>The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

**Philippians 1:4-6** <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**Acts 20:28** <sup>28</sup>Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.

**1 Timothy 3** <sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

<sup>8</sup>Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. <sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

## **I Goal of the Christian Life – Sanctification**

**Matthew 22:37-40** <sup>37</sup>Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

### **A. Do all kinds of good**

1. Live a life of love

**John 15:17** <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

2. Share our faith

**Matt. 28:19-29** <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

3. Care for our families

**1 Tim. 5:8** <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

**1 Tim 3:5** (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?)

4. Build others up

**1 Thes. 5:11** <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**Rom. 15:2** <sup>2</sup>Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.

5. Be engaged with those in need

**Heb. 13:16** <sup>16</sup>And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

**Rom. 12:13** - Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

### **B. Pursue growth in our spiritual lives**

1. Attend worship each weekend -

**Matthew 18:20** <sup>20</sup>For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

**Psalm 95:6-7** <sup>6</sup>Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; <sup>7</sup>for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

**1 Chronicles 16:29** <sup>29</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him.

2. Engage in close Christian friendships & Intentional Faith Development

**Hebrews 10:25** <sup>25</sup>Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day

approaching.

3. Serve God with our time & talents

**1 Peter 4:10-11** <sup>10</sup>Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

**Ephesians 4:11-13** <sup>11</sup>It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup>until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**2 Corinthians 9:12-13** <sup>12</sup>This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

<sup>13</sup>Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

4. Give in proportion to our income

**Malachi 3:8-10a** <sup>8</sup>"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup>You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup>Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

**Leviticus 27:30** <sup>30</sup>"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

5. Spend time in prayer & personal Bible study

**Colossians 4:2** <sup>2</sup>Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

**Romans 12:12** <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

**Luke 6:12** <sup>12</sup>One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

**Deut. 11:18** Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

C. Avoid things inconsistent with life of faith

1. Self-destructive behavior

**2 Peter 2:19** They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity – for a man is slave of whatever has mastered him.

**Romans 6:16** Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey- whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

2. Moral Compromise

**Philippians 4:8-9** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.

3. Self-centeredness & pride

**Philippians 2:3-4** <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Each of you should look not only to

your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Psalms 10:2-11** <sup>2</sup>In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises. <sup>3</sup>He boasts of the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD.

**2 Timothy 3:2-5** <sup>2</sup>People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup>treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— <sup>5</sup>having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

4. Malice(resentment, anger, backbiting)

**James 1:19-20** <sup>19</sup>My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup>for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires

**Proverbs 15:1** <sup>1</sup>A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

**Ephesians 4:26-27** <sup>26</sup>"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup>and do not give the devil a foothold.

**Matthew 5:21-26** <sup>21</sup>"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' <sup>22</sup>But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

5. Wasting of resources (church's or personal)

**Genesis 2:15** <sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

**Psalms 8:6-8** <sup>6</sup>You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: <sup>7</sup>all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

**Psalms 115:16** <sup>16</sup>The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to man.

**Luke 12:33-38**, 42 (Faithful steward)

**Luke 19:12-27** (Pounds)

**Matthew 25:14-30** (Talents)

**Mark 12:29-31** <sup>29</sup>"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup>The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

**Luke 10** (Sending the 70 out & the results)

## II Heart & Attitude of Leaders @ MZ

### 1. Committed to Christ

**Luke 14:33** - In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

**John 15:8** - This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**1 Cor. 7:35** - I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

**Matt. 13:44** - "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

**Rom. 12:1** - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

## 2. Positive

**John 13:35** - By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

**1 Thes. 4:18** - Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**1 Thes. 5:11** - Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**Acts 11:22-23** - News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup>When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

**Gal. 5:22-23** - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

## 3. Joyful

**Rom. 15:13** - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Col. 1:12** - Giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

**Acts 13:52** - And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

**Luke 19:37** - When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen.

## 4. Humble (Servant Leadership)

**1 Peter 5:5** - In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

**James 3:13** - Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

**Col. 3:12** - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

**Phil. 2:13** - For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose

**Mic. 6:8** - He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

## 5. Devoted to Purpose & Vision of MZ

**Rom. 12:10** - Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

**1 Cor. 16:15b-16** - I urge you, brothers and sisters, <sup>16</sup>to submit to such people and to

everyone who joins in the work and labors at it.

## **Membership vows**

### **B. How to Live in Community with One Another**

#### **1. Demonstrating Love & Grace**

**Phil. 2:13** - For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

**1 Cor. 13:4-7** - Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

**2 Tim. 2:24** - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

#### **2. Accepting Differences**

**Rom. 15:7** - Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

**1 Pet. 3:8-9** - Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 9Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

#### **3. Maintaining Appropriate Confidentiality**

**2 Tim. 2:16** - Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

**James 3:5** - Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

**Prov. 18:8** - The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.

#### **4. Publically Supporting Other Servant Leaders, Pastors, & Staff**

**Heb. 13:17** - Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

**1 Tim 5:17** – The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching or teaching.

#### **5. Go Directly to Individual When Problems Arise**

**5-17Matt. 18:15-17** - "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.