

# CHOOSING COMMUNITY COVENANT

We, the leadership of Calvary on 8th (RCA), commit to this Choosing Community Covenant.

*We make these promises  
with the following convictions:*

- Conflict and disagreement are part of every community and ours is no exception.

[Philippians 4:2-3](#)

- Our calling is:  
Loving God.  
Becoming Disciples.  
Choosing Community.

- Our behavior and unity in Christ is integral to this calling. All three parts of our vision statement are strengthened and the gospel of Jesus Christ is more clearly proclaimed when we live out these promises as a community.

[John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:16](#)

**CALVARY ON 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET**  
LOVING GOD. BECOMING DISCIPLES. CHOOSING COMMUNITY.

# We promise ~

- To be a community that *prays continuously* for each other, the strength of the church, and God's will to be done.  
[1 Thessalonians 5:17](#), [Colossians 4:2](#), [Acts 2:42](#)
- To look not to our own interests but the interests of others.  
[Philippians 2:4](#) We will accomplish this by:
  - Listening before speaking [James 1:19](#)
  - Growing in the fruit of the Spirit [Galatians 5:22-26](#), [Colossians 3:12-17](#)
  - Loving everyone [John 13:34-35](#), [Colossians 3:14](#)
  - Demonstrating compassion and humility [Philippians 2:3-4](#), [Colossians 3:12](#)
- To be good and faithful servants, seeking unity with everyone, focusing on God's will, not ours. [Romans 12:16](#), [Romans 12:2](#), [Matthew 25:21](#)
- To *persevere* with one another. We will not give up, but lean in when difficulties arise. [Ephesians 4:2](#), [Matthew 5:23-24](#), [1 Corinthians 13:7](#)
- To seek freedom from bitterness. [Ephesians 4:31](#)
- To seek, as those forgiven by God, to be a forgiving community, offering God's forgiveness to one another and others with whom we have the opportunity to share the forgiving nature of Christ. [Colossians 3:13](#), [Matthew 6:12-15](#)
- To uphold the values of peacemakers and follow their lead in our midst. [Matthew 5:9](#), [Romans 12:18](#)
- To maintain confidentiality.
- To approach the person with whom we have a disagreement, communicating clearly, and speaking the truth in love.  
[Matthew 18:15-17](#), [Ephesians 4:15-16](#)
- To do everything in the name of Jesus Christ and for God's glory.  
[Colossians 3:17](#), [1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1](#)

### Philippians 4:2-3

<sup>2</sup> I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

### John 13:34-35

<sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

### 1 John 3:16

<sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

### Colossians 4:2

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

### Acts 2:42

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

### Philippians 2:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

### James 1:19

<sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

### Galatians 5:22-26

<sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

### Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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### Romans 12:16-18

<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of



low position. Do not be conceited. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

### Romans 12:2

<sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

### Matthew 25:21

<sup>21</sup> "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

### Ephesians 4:2

<sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

### Matthew 5:23-24

<sup>23</sup> "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

### 1 Corinthians 13:6-7

<sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

### Ephesians 4:31

<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

### Matthew 6:12-15

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.'

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you,

your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

<sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

### Matthew 5:9

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

### Matthew 18:15-17

<sup>15</sup> "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. <sup>16</sup> But 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.' <sup>17</sup> If 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.

### Ephesians 4:15-16

<sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

### 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

<sup>31</sup> So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— <sup>33</sup> even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. **11** <sup>1</sup> Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Bible Verses are New International Version (NIV).

