

WELCOME TRACK

SESSION 3

JOIN R FAMILY

In the new family of Jesus, the local church is where your new family grows, and in this session you are given the opportunity to join **R FAMILY** by becoming a **Steward**.

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Typically a church will have a membership process where people join the church and then are considered “members”. Becoming a member traditionally means you have certain rights instead of responsibilities to build up the church. We want to be clear, not only about why our church exists but that we all have and take responsibility to “steward” the church. Our church belongs to Jesus, and as stewards, we are responsible for the health and growth of the church until Jesus returns. We like to say it like this:

Members Have Rights. Stewards Have Responsibilities.

WHY A COVENANT?

A covenant is an agreement between God and His people. In the Bible God makes certain promises to His people and then requires certain behavior in covenant (agreement). For us our Stewardship Covenant is an agreement between Revolution Church and **Stewards**.

Becoming a **Steward** in **R FAMILY** says you are all-in on the mission and vision, and you believe what we believe. Becoming a **Steward** also says you are ready to let your pastors care for you, encourage you, hold you accountable, and help you GROW.

Becoming a **Steward** gives you the opportunity to explore your leadership potential within **R FAMILY**. Most *servicing* opportunities are open to anyone, but *leadership* opportunities are only available to **Stewards**. Yes, Stewardship requires a higher degree of accountability, responsibility, service and sacrifice. We say it this way:

Discipleship is your next step of obedience. Leadership is your next step of sacrifice.

In any healthy family, there are expectations of each member of the family. **Healthy expectations are conscious, realistic, spoken, and agreed upon.** So, what does that mean?

CONSCIOUS: Expectations have to be something that we are aware of. If I have expectations for people that we are not even aware of ourselves, then there is no way for others to know what they are.

REALISTIC: Expectations have to be realistic and within the realm of possibility. Often we have expectations of people that are simply unrealistic, in that they cannot be done in a healthy manner. All expectations must be within the realm of possibility and not based on assumptions and preconceived notions.

SPOKEN: Expectations have to be spoken and not assumed. It is not honest to expect others to do things that we have never communicated to them. It can create unhealthy relationships. We must verbalize our expectations to the person we expect things from in order for them to be successful in meeting them.

AGREED UPON: Expectations have to be mutually agreed upon. If there is not a mutual agreement around what can and should occur, then it is unhealthy to hold someone to a standard that they have not agreed to follow.

Once expectations are conscious, realistic, spoken, and agreed upon, they become the baseline for behavior. You allow for mistakes to be made and then discussed, so you can learn to make more accountable choices in the future. The point of having expectations for our **Stewards** is so we are able to grow in emotional health.

As a **Steward** you should have certain healthy expectations of your church. Likewise, as a church, we should have certain healthy expectations of our **Stewards**. As a church family this fuels our desire to live an integrated life, in which our actions match up with what we believe.

Since joining the church is a covenant, our **Stewardship Covenant** is an agreement of healthy expectations between Revolution Church and our **Stewards**.

HEALTHY EXPECTATIONS YOU SHOULD HAVE FOR YOUR CHURCH:

- We preach the Gospel of Jesus and teach from the Bible while staying on guard against false teachers.
- We joyfully keep watch over the souls of the people of Revolution, knowing that we will give an account to God for your spiritual welfare.
- We build the church under Jesus's authority and submit to the Spirit's leading.
- The pastors meet the qualifications assigned for us in the Bible.
- We will help you grow in obedience and equip you for the work of ministry.
- We take the lead in setting an example and join you in joyfully fulfilling the responsibilities of the stewardship covenant.
- We prayerfully seek God's will for our church and steward her resources based on our understanding of the Scriptures and the guidance of the Spirit.
- We lovingly exercise church discipline when necessary.

HEALTHY EXPECTATIONS WE HAVE FOR OUR STEWARDS:

- You agree with our statement of faith. **(See Website)**
- You have trusted in Jesus for salvation, and you have been biblically baptized.
- You will submit to the Scriptures as the final authority on all issues of life and belief.
- You will submit to the Pastors and other appointed leaders of the church.
- You will pursue Jesus through Bible reading, prayer, fasting and spiritual disciplines.
- You commit to protect and build up **R FAMILY**.
- You will prioritize church gatherings, serving on a Team and being in a Community Group.
- You will live Life On Mission and seek to bless others.
- You will exercise wisdom and humility in all relationships including social media.
- You will steward the resources that God has given you by tithing and giving sacrificially.
- You believe marriage is between one man and one woman according to the Bible.
- You live out our Family Culture Statements. **(See Welcome Track Session 2)**
- You will multiply what God has done in your life by helping others take this journey.

WHAT IF I WANT TO LEAVE R CHURCH?

In any family, there are times when members move away. We understand that relocation requires a change in commitment, and sometimes God calls **Stewards** to other churches. We never want to have an estranged relationship with a **Steward**. We simply ask that you have a conversation with one of our pastors about God's leading in your life. Then continue to build up the church so the ministry of the global church is not harmed by divisiveness between believers and local churches.

READY TO JOIN?

"I agree with the expectations of Revolution Church and commit to live out these expectations as a **Steward**. I understand this covenant obligates me as a **Steward** of Revolution Church and is an acknowledgment of my submission to the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify the leadership of Revolution Church if at any time I can no longer fulfill this covenant."

Please digitally sign the Stewardship Covenant by scanning the QR Code below.

