

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE

Country Oaks Baptist Church. 20915 Schout Rd. Tehachapi, CA 93561. (661) 822-1379.

According to the church constitution and bylaws, in order to become a member of Country Oaks Baptist Church:

- You must be saved - verbally professing a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- You must have submitted to believer's baptism
- You must read and agree with the church Constitution and Bylaws and be willing to submit to the authority of this church in matters of spiritual life and discipline

Worship, Grow, Serve

Worship - Come Join Us in Corporate Worship

The ultimate goal of the church is worship. We at Country Oaks want to be a church body that has a deep, red-hot love for Jesus, His Word, and the Glory of God. With this shared passion, we ask our members to join together Sunday mornings to pray, give, sing, preach, fellowship, and enjoy the glory of God in corporate worship. Hebrews 10:24-25, Romans 12:1-2, Acts 2:42-47, 1 Timothy 4:13, 2 Timothy 4:2, Psalm 95:1, Exodus 15:1, Revelations 14:3-4

We are created to worship God and we believe that we glorify Him best when we are focused on worshipping Him with every aspect of our lives.

Grow - Get Involved with a Growth Group

A healthy church body is one that is growing in its relationship with the Lord. Although God has provided many means for personal growth, we believe growth happens best in the context of intimate, loving communities. Therefore we ask our members to actively seek a midweek "Growth Group" where they can find encouragement and accountability. Proverbs 27:17, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, James 5:16, 1 Peter 4:9, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Romans 15:2

In order to grow in Christ, we believe that we must be committed to the study and application of God's Word, which, by the power of the Holy Spirit, transforms our lives to look more like Christ. In Growth Groups we dig deep into the Word of God and give each other support, encouragement, and accountability in our walk with God.

Serve - Find a Place in the Church Body to Serve

God is a communal God of love (Father, Son & Holy Spirit). Being a God of love, He has commanded His children to follow in His footsteps and actively love one another. In His love, Jesus came to serve, not to be served. Therefore we ask our church members to serve one another with the same attitude as Christ, a self-sacrificial love. Mark 10:45, 1 John 3:16, Galatians 5:13, Romans 7:6 John 13:34, Romans 12:9-13, 1 Corinthians 10:24

We believe that growth in Christ becomes a desire to serve the Lord, and likewise, faithful service honors God and deepens our relationship with Him. This service is manifested at the church by volunteering in ministries like greeting, music, technical, and children's ministries (to name a few), in our community by investing in the people and places you are passionate about outside of church, and around the world by those called to support or serve in missions and as Cross-Cultural Workers.

What it means to Worship, Grow, and Serve as a church member...

It's not membership as in a civic organization or a country club. It's the kind of membership given to us in I Corinthians 12: *"Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it."* (I Cor. 12:27)

Worship as a Member

- Because I am a member of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning member, whether I am an "eye," an "ear," or a "hand." As a functioning member, I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. I will remember that *"if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."* (1 Cor. 12:26)
- I will seek to be a source of unity in my church. I know there are no perfect pastors, staff, or other church members, but I also know that I am not perfect either. I will not be a source of gossip or dissension. One of the greatest contributions I can make is to do all I can in God's power to help keep the church in unity for the sake of the gospel.

Grow as a Member

- I will pray for my pastors every day. I understand that the pastors' work is never ending. Their days are filled with numerous demands that bring emotional highs and lows. They must deal with critics. They must be good husbands and fathers. Because my pastors cannot do all things in their own power, I will pray for their strength and wisdom daily.
- I will lead my family to be good members of this church as well. We will pray together for our church. We will worship together in our church. We will serve together in our church. And we will ask Christ to help us fall deeper in love with this church because He gave His life for her.

Serve as a Member

- I will not let my church be about my preferences and desires. That is self-serving. I am a member of this church to serve others and to serve Christ. My Savior went to a cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that just aren't my preference or style.
- This membership is a gift. When I received the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, I became a part of the body of Christ. I soon thereafter identified with a local body and was baptized. And now I am humbled and honored to serve and to love others in our church. I pray that I will never take my membership for granted, but see it as a gift and an opportunity to serve others and to be a part of something so much greater than any one person or member.



Are you presently – or were you previously – either a member or regular attender of another church?

Yes No

If yes, please complete the following:

Name of Church: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone: _____ Attendance: From _____ to _____

Reason for leaving _____

Have you ever been placed under church discipline? Yes No

If yes, please explain _____

Why do you want to join Country Oaks Baptist Church? _____

Do you agree, by the grace of Christ, to fulfill the obligations of membership as described in the church Membership Covenant, the church's Bylaws and Statement of Faith, including faithful support of the church, submission to leadership, and a ministry of mutual support and encouragement to fellow members of the body? Yes No

Do you attend a growth group? Yes No If yes, who is the leader? _____

Personal Testimony

The questions below will guide you through a clear presentation of your personal testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. Attach an additional sheet if needed.

1. Give a brief description of your life before salvation.



2. Tell us the story of your conversion (please include how God intervened in your life for salvation):

3. Give a brief description of your life since you have come to Christ: _____

4. Describe your ongoing relationship with God: _____

Ministry

Please describe any prior experience teaching or working with children and/or adults, including dates and locations: _____

Where are you currently serving in ministry at Country Oaks (please include the leaders' names)?

AFFIRMATION OF DOCTRINE, MEMBERSHIP COVENANT, AND CHURCH CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

These documents are available as documents, and also may be viewed at www.countryoaks.org.

Doctrinal Affirmation: Check the appropriate statement and provide additional information if applicable.

I have carefully read and affirm without reservation that I am in agreement with the doctrinal statement of Country Oaks Baptist Church.

I have carefully read the doctrinal statement but have reservations about certain areas because I have not yet had the time or opportunity to study them fully for myself. *(Please list these areas on a separate sheet.)*

I have carefully read the doctrinal statement and after careful personal study of the subjects still have strong reservations about certain areas. *(Please list these areas and explain your views on a separate sheet.)*

Membership Covenant and Bylaws Affirmation: Check the appropriate statement and provide additional information if applicable.

I have carefully read and affirm without reservation that I am in agreement with the Membership Covenant and Constitution & Bylaws of Country Oaks Baptist Church.

I have carefully read the Membership Covenant and Constitution & Bylaws and have reservations about certain areas because I have not yet had the time or opportunity to study them fully for myself. *(Please list these areas on a separate sheet.)*

I have carefully read the Membership Covenant and Constitution & Bylaws and after careful personal study of the subjects still have strong reservations about certain areas. *(Please list these areas and explain your views on a separate sheet.)*

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Elder/Deacon Signature: _____ Date: _____

Elder's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Listener's comments: _____

***Please return completed application to the receptionist,
or mail it to the church, Attention: Membership.***