



Pinehurst Post

We exist to love Jesus and live for Him.

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Body Parts Needed by Ryan Reese

We envision a congregation whose love for Jesus and one another leaves a clear and compelling witness for Christ.

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Acts 20:35

Over the past few months we examined the idea of church membership. Belonging to a church is far from simply putting another meaningless card in your wallet or getting your name on a roll. When we belong to Jesus Christ, we belong to one another. And to belong to one another at Pinehurst Baptist Church should cost us something: love, prayers, time, sweat, and service.

Every Christian has been given spiritual gifts, abilities, and talents from God. And those gifts are given for the benefit of others. Just like an inactive or malfunctioning body part affects the whole body, a church member who is not ministering to their brothers and sisters is hampering the church.

This is no guilt trip. If serving one another were a drag, or a joyless duty, that might be appropriate. But listen to Paul describe his eagerness to serve the Roman Christians through his gifts: "For I long to see you, that I may impart some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine" (Romans 1:11-12, ESV). Serving one another is not just a blessing to those who receive, but even more so to those who give (Acts 20:35). If you aren't actively seeking the good of others in the church, you are missing out on good things yourself.

There are many reasons Christians don't serve the body. Laziness and self-centeredness are the ugly reasons. For some, the well-being of the church is of minor importance, and must always be sacrificed to make

room for work, home, and play. This is a far cry from biblical Christianity and surely grieves the Holy Spirit within them, but we shouldn't assume that is always the case for the uninvolved. Some might have physical limitations that keep them from being as involved as they would like. They need to remember that prayer and encouragement are of no small service to the body of Christ. Others might be unaware of how God has gifted them and don't know how they could help others. There may also be members who are timid or afraid of failure. Some of our servants have recently had to back off because they simply didn't have the energy to carry their heavy load. As the Lord has recently lifted some of our hardest workers to far-off places (the Loose and Sheppard families, to name a few), filling their shoes has been complicated. If a few body parts try to do the work of many, disaster is on the horizon.

Another reason might be ignorance of need. If we don't know what opportunities are available, how can we step up and take them? This is one reason for lack of service I would love to eliminate. The following is a brief list of current opportunities to serve Pinehurst Baptist Church.

Fellowship Coordinator: Oversees the monthly church lunch fellowships, and other fellowship activities, as well as keeping track of the budget for fellowships and supplies.

Counting Team: Once a month, count the week's offerings and prepare them for deposit at the bank.

Extended Care Coordinator: Schedules childcare workers to care for our youngest children during Sunday worship services.

Vice Moderator: Fills in for the moderator (David Northrop) should he be unable to moderate business meetings.

Personnel Committee: The personnel committee and its chairman help with issues related to the staff, such as job expectations, compensation, and benefits.

Has God equipped you to serve in any of these roles? If so, please begin praying about the possibility and notify us as soon as possible. Of course, there are many other ways to plug in and use your giftedness at Pinehurst—some I'm sure we haven't even thought of yet. But to have a healthy church we need all the body parts performing their function. If you don't know what your gifts are, let's talk and pray until we figure it out. If you are afraid of failure, we can talk about that too. If you are already maxed out and laying down your life in love for Jesus and his people, then praise God. Continue to bless and be blessed. And if you are simply being lazy and selfish, then please repent and get to work. You've got something this body needs.



What's in a Name? by Brian Watson

As most of you know, Pinehurst Baptist Church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. The SBC is the largest Protestant denomination in America, with over 16 million members and 44,000 churches. Each church is autonomous and agrees to cooperate with other SBC churches in local associations, state conventions, and the national convention. Not everything that happens in SBC life affects us directly. But we think it is important to know what is going on in the life of our denomination.

Recently, a task force was established by the SBC to consider changing the name of the denomination. The SBC was established in 1845. Several factors led to the establishment of the new denomination, including a disagreement among Baptists about how to collect money for missions, how to organize missions and missionaries, and, unfortunately, what to do about slavery. The Southern Baptist historian Leon McBeth states, rather plainly, "Slavery was the main issue that led to the 1845 schism; that is a blunt historical fact."¹ Baptists in the North wanted to abolish slavery, while Baptists in the South wanted to keep slaves. Now, it should be said that before 1830, several Baptists in the South spoke out against slavery, calling it contrary to the word of God. But in the decades leading up to the Civil War, Baptists in the South were generally pro-slavery. The differences in views between Northern and Southern Baptists eventually led to the creation of the SBC. "Thus, the Southern Baptist Convention walked on the stage of history burdened by its defense of a practice which subsequent history would condemn and which Southern Baptists themselves would one day condemn."²

This history, in addition to the fact that the SBC is not confined to the South, has led people to consider changing the denomination's name. This is actually nothing new. A name change was considered in 1903, when the proposed name was "The Baptist Convention of the United States."

The current task force came up with a different proposal last month. They proposed an optional new name: "Great Commission Baptists." The Southern Baptist Convention is *not* changing its legal name. Part of the reason for not changing the official name of the denomination is that such a name change would have many legal ramifications that would be a nightmare to sort out. So, the legal name remains. However, if SBC churches and individuals want to call themselves Great Commission Baptists in addition to (or in place of) Southern Baptists, they have the freedom to do so.

Why would the SBC want to change its name? One obvious reason is that the SBC is no longer a regional denomination. For many years, it has been a national denomination, with churches in all fifty states. The "Southern" aspect of the name also harkens back to the founding of the denomination, dredging up memories of slavery. Finally, that same aspect of the name can also be confusing outside of the South. Those of you who are from the South are probably proud of the name. But for us Yankees, the name is a bit strange. The confusion is best illustrated by the geographically-challenged title of a book that the Northwest Baptist Convention published: *Northwest Southern Baptists*.

The proposed name change comes from a desire to have nothing impede the spread of the gospel. People in the Pacific Northwest, the ones we are trying to reach, do not understand what the SBC is, let alone what "Baptist" means. Those people may be put off by the word, "Southern." That is why all of the recent SBC church plants in the Seattle metro area do not have the word "Baptist" in their name, let alone "Southern." Instead, they have names like Commons Community Church, Reliance Church, Journey Church, Epic Life Church, Veritas Church, and so on.

What does all of this mean for Pinehurst Baptist Church? Nothing. We will continue to say that we are affiliated

with the Southern Baptist Convention. However, I think it is important to remember that our traditions may come and go. To paraphrase Isaiah 40:8, "Names wither, denominations fade, but the word of our God will stand forever." The only name that is sacred is the name of the triune God. We can be proud to be Southern Baptists (or Great Commission Baptists, if you prefer) because our denomination upholds the truths of the Bible and is devoted to missions. Those two emphases, in addition to Baptist distinctives, are reasons why many of us are Southern Baptists. But the name that we bear first is Christian, and this is a name that will not fade.

To be clear: the doctrine of the SBC is not changing. The reason for the name change is a desire to reach the world, not conform to it. The SBC has always been concerned about evangelism, and a name change may help that cause.

If the new name takes root, it is not without its own problems. A pastor friend of mine pointed out to non-Christians, "Great Commission" evokes images of money, not evangelism. If we were to tell unbelieving friends that we are Great Commission Baptists, they may think our church is out to make a great commission. Also, ABC now has a show on television called GCB. (The acronym stands for Good Christian, uh . . . Witches.) It's kind of like *Desperate Housewives* set in the Bible Belt, and it depicts Christians in a bad light. Is GCB really the name we want to use?

To learn more about the name change, visit www.bpnews.net and search for "Great Commission Baptists."

¹ H. Leon McBeth, *The Baptist Heritage* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1987), 382.

² Jesse C. Fletcher, *The Southern Baptist Convention* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994), 40.