



**Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on
A Call to Biblical Preaching**
Passed August 10-13, 2015

Evidence of the dearth of powerful biblical preaching today is clear and compelling, being evident in many of the sermons on radio and television, internet sites, and the printed page. Multitudes of churches are starving spiritually while being exposed to massive meals of extravagant entertainment. While there are many gifted communicators in ministerial positions, far too often their typical sermons are short, shallow, and superficial. They usually appeal to the emotions and flesh rather than to the mind and heart. There seems to be an insatiable desire to be contemporary, relevant, and popular.

On the other hand, some pulpits are merely lecterns in seminary classrooms. There is often good educational presentation alone minus heart appeal, spiritual encouragement, and individual application. Such preaching is sterile and lacks the power of God. Preachers need to understand that the Bible is timeless, personal, and true. It is God's authoritative and authentic revelation of His truth to man. Therefore, it is imperative that all pastors and preachers, with the enablement and power of the Holy Spirit, to earnestly preach the entire counsel of God. As Paul instructed young Timothy, *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine* (2 Timothy 4:2).

THEREFORE, we, the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches, reaffirm our commitment to the eternal, inerrant, and infallible Word of God. We strongly urge all men called and gifted of God and publicly confirmed by believers in a local church to teach and preach the truth with conviction, compassion, and clarity. While our preaching styles may vary, our proclamation should be scriptural, expository, systematic, and theological. In this day of confusion and compromise, we must regain the art of preaching and, without fear or favor, exalt the Savior, expound the Scriptures, edify the saints, and evangelize the sinners.



Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on Challenges and Closings of Christian Colleges & Seminaries

Passed August 10-13, 2015

The landscape of our fundamentalist Christian Colleges is changing and has changed in dramatic ways. Within the last decade, schools such as Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, Calvary Baptist Seminary, Northland International University, Tennessee Temple, and most recently, Clearwater Christian College, have merged or closed their doors. These were schools that for many years were faithful to the Scriptures in doctrine and practice, and though we may not have agreed in every area with them, we do remember them as serving a vital role in the training of Christians and the defense of the faith.

The overall trend for fundamental Christian schools is one of decline. Schools are struggling for students, funds are low, and programs are being cut. These are challenging days. There will no doubt be other historic institutions that will face the possibility of closure or reduced program offerings. Why are Christian schools closing? While it comes down to money, there are a host of factors and challenges to consider, such as:

- 1) changes in a compromising direction and the loss of core constituency,
- 2) the challenge of affordable tuition,
- 3) the appeal of secular community schools due to cost and connection to home,
- 4) churches and pastors are not encouraging young people to go away to Christian college, and
- 5) a decrease and decline in our churches.

THEREFORE, we, the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches, recognizing the general trends in our movement, believe that Bible colleges and seminaries are needed to train the next generation. The movement of Biblical Fundamentalism is indebted to many good institutions of higher learning. Many men and women inside and outside our churches have been trained for ministry and/or equipped for living the Christian life in this world.

FURTHERMORE, we will strive to promote and pray for the schools that remain.



Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on The Free Exercise of Religion

Passed August 10-13, 2015

The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights provides for and protects religious freedom and “the free exercise thereof” in our Country. The exercise of religion involves how we live and includes how we worship! Over the years this amendment has been challenged and defined by those wanting to limit and even remove our religious freedom.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 “prohibits any agency, department, or official of the United States or any State from substantially burdening a person’s exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability.” Since 1993 twenty-one states have enacted religious freedom legislation. Most recently have been the states of Indiana and Arkansas. Sixteen states have introduced legislation in 2015 regarding the creation of or alteration to a state religious freedom law! Why is there a need for this kind of legislative action?

Attacks on religious freedom and the free exercise thereof are on the increase in our country. The Supreme Court decision of June 26, 2015, in favor of same-sex marriage has emboldened opponents of God, the Bible, and those who truly believe it. Baronelle Stutzman of Arlene’s Flowers, in the state of Washington, is being sued by the state Attorney General and two men, for not providing flowers for their same-sex marriage. The court has ordered that both the state and couple can collect damages and attorney’s fees against her business assets and her personal home and savings! Aaron and Melissa Klein of Oregon have been fined \$135,000 for declining to bake a cake for a lesbian commitment ceremony! On July 6, 2015, Judge C. Allen McConnell, of Toledo, OH, declined to marry a “non-traditional” couple based on his personal and Christian beliefs. He is being questioned and threatened by various officials, LGBT defenders, and the ACLU. The *Atlantic* published an article on July 14, 2015 (“Gay Marriage and the Future of Evangelical Colleges”) which suggests federal funding should be withheld and tax-exempt status removed for Evangelical colleges whose policies refuse to admit openly gay students. These are only a few examples of what is happening and what is coming in our country.

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback issued an executive order on July 7, 2015, protecting clergy and churches from lawsuits over their refusal to participate in same-sex marriages. Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana have passed or ordered similar protections and Tennessee legislators are considering one. These efforts are both necessary and appreciated!

THEREFORE, we, the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches, stand with governors and states in their efforts to protect religious freedom. We believe in the right of conscience for every American, which guides their practice, which flows from their belief, which is their religion! We believe that marriage is between a man and a woman, as decreed by God (Genesis 2:18-24).

FINALLY, we encourage pastors and churches to stand, graciously and boldly in these days, determined to “obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29; 1 Peter 4:12-19; John 17:14-16).



Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on Transgenderism: One More Sad Expression of Society's

Acceptance of Sexual Deviancy

Passed August 10-13, 2015

Early in 2015 it was announced that a popular TV star and Olympic hero (gold medalist of the 1976 summer Olympics) was transitioning to becoming a woman. On June 1, Bruce Jenner announced on *Twitter* that “she” is a woman, now known as Caitlyn, saying “I’m so happy after such a long struggle to be living my true self. Welcome to the world Caitlyn. Can't wait for you to get to know her/me.” The same day the *Vanity Fair* cover featured Caitlyn’s public debut. Almost immediately, the news story became a sensation on social media and TV with many politicians, celebrities, and commentators hailing Jenner as courageous.

Not surprisingly, the pop culture has been largely accepting and congratulatory of Jenner and others who have transitioned. This was seen when Jenner made “her” first public appearance on July 15 at the ESPY Awards in Los Angeles, where “she” received the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage. To further glorify the sexual change of Jenner, a TV series, *I Am Cait*, premiered in late July with 2.5 million tuning in.

To those who embrace the Bible as the infallible and authoritative Word of God, transgenderism is against God’s created order (Genesis 1). The tragic human drama of gender transition is but one expression of sexual deviancy running shamelessly in our day. We are troubled by all forms of homosexuality, sex before marriage and outside of marriage, pornography, and any other sexual sin forbidden by God - the judge of all the earth. Biblically, the times in which we live are evil and growing worse (Ephesians 5:16, 2 Timothy 3:12-13). While Christians should have a loving and scriptural answer for those caught up in or facing temptations with regard to transgenderism, what is behind all sexual deviancy is a sinfully depraved heart that rejects God and His truth.

THEREFORE, we, the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches, are grieved by the actions of those who seek happiness and acceptance apart from God and His Word through a new sexual identity. Such happiness is a façade, merely hiding a soul that is depressed apart from God and in turmoil looking for lasting happiness. We believe the answer is found in Jesus Christ who alone can save the sinner by His grace and transform him into the image of Jesus Christ. When a sinner believes the gospel, he then has a new identity (now a Christian) and is accepted in the beloved (Ephesians 1:6).

FURTHERMORE, we further believe that transgenderism is wrong because God Himself establishes our identities as man or woman; man cannot change his gender. To do otherwise is a revolt against God’s created order. Whether you are a pastor or layperson, each is called upon to minister with gentleness, firmness, and with scriptural clarity in days of great confusion.