



Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on Here We Stand – 500 Years Later

Passed August 7-10, 2017

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. It began in 1517 when Martin Luther, a German monk, nailed his ninety-five Rome-challenging theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany as a public invitation for scholarly debate on the subject of indulgences. This action would be the spark that ignited a reformation. Luther's studying of the Scriptures led him and other reformers, like Calvin, Zwingli, and Knox, to protest and stand up against the false teachings, superstitions, and moral decadence of their times. The light of the glorious gospel and God's precious Word would pierce the millennium-old darkness of the Church of Rome. The famous five "solas" became the unifying cry of the great reformers. "Sola Scriptura," that is "Scripture alone," was the foundation that set the tone for the Protestant Reformation. These men believed that Scripture alone is our absolute authority for faith and practice.

Now, 500 years later, we give thanks for our Christian heritage, which includes the Reformation, and we seek to continue to stand on the fundamental, scriptural truths that guided this great move of God. While we are not a "reformed" fellowship of churches and could articulate areas of disagreement with the reformers, we are grateful for those individuals who stood upon the essential doctrines of God's Word and the true gospel of Jesus Christ. We boldly believe and proclaim that people are saved by grace alone, through faith alone (Romans 5:1), by Christ alone (Acts 4:12), as revealed in God's Word alone (Romans 10:17), and that this all results in glory to God alone (Ephesians 1:6). Neglecting or rejecting these truths only leads us back into darkness, even greater darkness.

THEREFORE, we, the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches, ask God to let our lives and churches be modern-day demonstrations of the transforming power of the Word of God leading to the exaltation of our great God in the places He has called us to serve. May God help us to connect the right scriptural beliefs of the Protestant Reformation to right, holy living. We also ask God to embolden us to risk, like the Reformers, when it comes to declaring God's Word in this world where many people still have never heard and others are turning to false gospels for their eternal salvation. Finally, we ask God to let us taste of some of the great revivals that swept through churches and lands as a result of the Reformation.

*Feelings come and feelings go,
And feelings are deceiving;
My warrant is the Word of God –
Naught else is worth believing.*

*Though all my heart should feel condemned
For want of some sweet token,
There is One greater than my heart
Whose Word cannot be broken.*

*I'll trust in God's unchanging Word
'Til soul and body sever,
For, though all things shall pass away,
His Word shall stand forever!*

— Martin Luther



Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on The Priority of Evangelism and Discipleship in Church Growth

Passed August 7-10, 2017

Before our Lord ascended from this earth, He clearly delineated the main business of the church in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8). A proper exegesis of these passages reveals “the making of disciples” to be at the center of this commission.

While we recognize that the primary purposes of the meetings of the church are the corporate worship, edification, service, and fellowship of believers, not unbelievers (Ephesians 4:12), we affirm that local churches and the individuals that comprise their membership should always seek creative ways to connect with lost people in their communities.

A close look at the trend and overwhelmingly predominant philosophy and methodology of pastors and churches worldwide reveals attractional and manipulative methods of church growth. Unfortunately, even the fundamentalist movement has to some extent embraced such similar methods. These include techniques such as using innocent entertainment, amusing performances, sensational motivational speakers, and emotionally out-of-balance appeals for decisions, while the central truths of the glory and holiness of Christ, the power of His Word and His Spirit, and the claims of the gospel often receive a lesser priority.

THEREFORE, we, the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches, resolve to endeavor to keep the Great Commission at the center and forefront of our ministerial efforts, and that we faithfully go about the work of making disciples by planting the seed of God’s Word in the hearts of unbelievers: watering, fertilizing, and prayerfully asking God to give the increase (1 Corinthians 3:7).

FURTHERMORE, we resolve to exemplify to our churches “the work of an evangelist” (2 Timothy 4:5), while faithfully endeavoring to make disciples by developing redemptive relationships with each soul the Lord providentially places in our lives and not leaving new believers to flounder in immaturity.

LASTLY, we resolve to give a proper, lower priority to allowable but peripheral means of church activity, while using the God-ordained means for church growth so that the honor and glory may be God’s alone.



Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on Christian Education

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The education of children is a responsibility given to parents by God (Deuteronomy 6:1-12) and the training of our children (Proverbs 22:6) includes the teaching of our children. Proverbs 1:7 tells us that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” Colossians 2:3 tells us that “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” are hidden in Christ. Proper instruction in any area of study must begin with the fear of the Lord and an understanding of and focus on Christ. Psalm 78:1-7 challenges parents to show “the generation to come the praises of the Lord” and to “make them known to their children” so that they might “set their hope in God.” Ephesians 6:4 specifically challenges fathers to “bring them (their children) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” These verses and others present to every father and mother a compelling responsibility to obey God by training and teaching our children.

Public schools and secular colleges are also driven by religious belief and practice. The religion is humanism, which essentially focuses young people on themselves and away from God. God is not welcome in most public institutions of learning. Nearly all of the instruction begins with the premise that there is no God. This presents a dangerous environment for the children of Christian families and is destructive to the youth of our country.

THEREFORE, we, the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches, promote and encourage Christian education. We are thankful for Christian homeschoolers, schools, colleges, and universities, and we commend the investment and sacrifice that many families are making for Christian education!

FURTHERMORE, We challenge Christian educators to stay the course, to refuse compromise for the sake of enrollment or finances, and to do all they can to keep their respective places of Christian education open.

FINALLY, we ask that you pray for Christian families to commit to education with a biblical foundation and that God would preserve our Christian homes, schools, colleges and universities!