

The Trustees of the Minnesota Baptist Association voted on February 7, 1997 to recommend this statement to the messengers of the 1997 Annual Meeting. The messengers adopted this Position Statement on August 6, 1997

MINNESOTA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION POSITION STATEMENT

New evangelicalism is a movement which has arisen within professing Christianity within the last half of the twentieth century. The movement is motivated by a desire for ecclesiastical unity and intellectual acceptance by a wide variety of theological positions. The movement, tolerant of errant doctrine and practice, may include the charismatic movement, the ecumenical movement and contemporary music which combines Christian lyrics with worldly music.

The New Testament prohibits fellowship between believers and unbelievers, particularly when the supposed purpose for such a union is spiritual service (2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11).

The New Testament does not teach we are to seek unity for the sake of unity itself. Rather, our unity as well as our separation is to be governed and circumscribed by the revealed truth of the Word of God (John 17:17).

There are circumstances clearly delineated in the New Testament in which believers must break fellowship with other believers who become "disobedient brothers." In Matthew 18:15-20, Christ lays out the process of restorative discipline, and the epistles specify the sinful beliefs and behaviors to which the process must be applied.

A "disobedient brother" is a believer who has disobeyed Scripture by fellowshiping with unbelievers, or by tolerating, supporting, or adopting the unbelievers' anti-Christ beliefs or immoral behaviors. The immoral behaviors requiring Matthew 18 discipline are found in 1 Corinthians 5:11-6:11; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-5; Colossians 3:5-8; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Titus 3:10-11; Revelation 21:8.

Doctrinal error refers to a rejection of those doctrines in the Bible concerning the Person and Work of Jesus Christ and His salvation. Anti-Christ beliefs requiring Matthew 18 discipline are found in Romans 16:17-20; Galatians 1:6-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-10, 18-20; 4:1-7; 2 Timothy 2:16-23; Titus 1:10-16; 3:9-11; 1 John 2:22, 23; 4:2, 3; 2 John 7-11.

The proponents of New Evangelicalism, while claiming to be servants of God, walk disobediently. Bible centered Christianity is always marked by a people "set apart" unto God (holy and separate) in doctrine and practice. Our position is doxological (emphasizing the glory of God) rather than merely soteriological (emphasizing salvation).


Most New Evangelicals today choose to be known simply as "evangelicals," while rejecting the terms "fundamentalist" or "separatist." [For further study on Biblical fundamentalism, consider *Reclaiming Authentic Fundamentalism* by Dr. Douglas McLachlan.]

While there are fundamentalists who are not Baptists, we are an independent Baptist Association. Therefore, we reaffirm our historic commitment that we are Baptist, not interdenominational; fundamental, not liberal; separatistic, not new evangelical; pre-millennial, not amillennial; dispensational, not covenant or reformed in theology; autonomous, not ecumenical in church relationship; pre-tribulational, not mid- or post-tribulational or pre-wrath with regards to the rapture.

The above resolution replaces and supersedes all past requirements for signed agreement with our doctrinal position. Effective August 6, 1997, all prospective Minnesota Baptist Association and Pillsbury Baptist Bible College Board members, before being seated shall sign, all Pillsbury faculty and administration employees shall annually sign, all Pillsbury chapel speakers, evangelists, and missionaries shall sign, and all Minnesota Baptist Association meeting speakers shall sign the following:

I hereby assert my personal agreement, without mental reservation, with the doctrinal statement and official position of the Minnesota Baptist Association and Pillsbury Baptist Bible College and my personal opposition to New Evangelicalism and other contrary positions as here expressed.

Signed by the following church messengers for the 2011 Annual Meeting from _____ Church:

_____  _____
_____ 9 November 2012 _____