

What We Don't Do...Does Define Us

Starting Where We'll Finish Today

TBF is a good church with solid biblical foundations and an established real life track record of almost four decades BUT it is not the only good church in the Duncan area and it is not the best church for everybody in the Duncan area.

The Mission of TBF Isn't a Secret

is to glorify God (Psa 86:11-13 and 1 Peter 2:12; 4:16) by actively participating in the ongoing fulfillment of the Great Commission (Mt 28:19-20) as a body of believers (1 Cor 12:13; 1 Jn 5:1-5) who collectively/individually (Phil 1:27) serve our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 12:1-2) and one another (Phil 2:3-4) as a spiritual greenhouse (Eph 4:11-16) such that by our interactions together we are catalyzed to grow (Acts 2:42) and to reproduce (Acts 2:47) spiritually.

We Don't Do Offering Plates

Which Does Not Mean

Those that do are wrong/bad

Which Does Mean

We want to go the extra mile to promote grace giving (2 Cor and Matt 6)

We Don't Do Altar Calls

Which Does Not Mean

We don't present the Gospel/invite people to receive the Gospel

Which Does Mean

We want to emphasize the fact that salvation is not by good works (but rather for good works); IOWs: good works are the fruit/expression/result of and not the root/reception/cause of salvation

We Don't Do/Have Formal "Church Membership"

Which Does Not Mean

Those that do are wrong/gad

Which Does Mean

We want to focus on functional > formal "church membership"

We Don't Do/Have a Written Doctrinal Statement

Which Does Not Mean

That TBF has no doctrinal convictions!?!

Which Does Mean

- 1: We recognize the fact the Holy Spirit has worked throughout the 2000 years of Church History in/through believers/churches/denominations with a plethora of important but secondary doctrinal differences!?!
- 2: We try to operate consistently with who we are: a church made up of believers in Jesus Christ from a wide variety of denominational backgrounds
- 3: What binds us together is Jesus Christ and the doctrinal and moral AIMS of Scripture and the relational nature of biblical spirituality (Jn 15:3-5)
- 4: The Pastor/Elders have an ongoing and important "watch dog" function

We Don't Do/Have a Formal Set of Bylaws

Which Does Not Mean

Those that do are wrong/bad or that TBF has no policies/procedures

Which Does Mean

- 1: We are a spiritual family not a religious business
- 2: We try to emphasize the wonderful truth that God's grace saves and perfects us (liberty > legalism on the one hand and license on the other).
- 3: It is critical that all of us know and are committed to our **POGs**
 - Purpose:** to make disciples of Jesus...not of Brad or even Harold
 - Objectives:** edification and evangelism
 - Goals:** Bible study, fellowship, worship, prayer, evangelism/ missions

Take This To Heart

What We Don't Do...Does Define Us and

Can/Should Help All of Us Better Appreciate and More Fully + Participate in TBF This (New) Year and Every Year

The Word Teaches We Should: Do all things (in the church) in an orderly manner 1 Corinthians 14:40

Our informality should not ever become irreverence
Our flexibility should not ever lead us to sloppiness

The Word Teaches We Should: Do all things (in the church) without grumbling or complaining Philippians 2:14

Our informality and/or or our flexibility should not surprise and/or shock "veteran" TBFers

Can Be Easily Misunderstood By People Inside and Outside

Jesus Teaches: Woe to you, when all people speak well of you Luke 6:26

TBFers should respect and appreciate what we are/how we do what we do WITHOUT disrespecting those who "do church" differently than we do!

Bottom Line

Finishing Where We Started

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