



First Baptist Church Pelham, Georgia

The Crier

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What is the number one issue pressing in upon the Southern Baptist Convention? In a couple of weeks, the convention will take up the Law Amendment. In the landscape of an ever-changing culture, the Law Amendment is nothing new where Southern Baptist are concerned. It is a clarification, for the record, of a people that believe God meant what He said through the bible. The Law Amendment would state, in our by-laws of the SBC, that pastoral offices are biblically reserved for men. Progressivism would have church ride the coattails of secular thought and social movements. But God has always desired His people to be different. "Holy", is the word God uses. It means "set-apart", "different", "dedicated", "consecrated". In short, God's people are to choose God's way no matter what the world around us pursues.

When it comes to this issue of female pastors, God addressed federal headship in the scriptures. The Law Amendment does nothing other than to state that we desire to be people of the Book. The following is a well-written article written by Dr. Heath Lambert of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville. He does a great Job bringing to light the issue at hand.

The Law Amendment is one of the most crucial issues facing messengers headed to Indianapolis for the 2024 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). The amendment passed by an overwhelming margin in New Orleans and is required to be approved by a 2/3 majority this year in order to be added to the Constitution. I want to help Southern Baptists understand the importance of this decision by examining what the Law Amendment is, what issues are not involved in this decision, and what is really at stake.

What Is the Law Amendment?

The so-called Law Amendment is an effort to change the SBC Constitution to clarify that the only kind of church in friendly cooperation with the convention is one that "Affirms, appoints, or employs only men as any kind of pastor or elder as qualified by Scripture."

There is a historical and textual reason for this amendment.

Historically, this became an issue at the 2022 SBC meeting in Anaheim. At that meeting, rather than make a recommendation to remove Saddleback Church for employing female pastors, the Credentials Committee recommended further study to determine what a pastor is. This recommendation led to a great deal of tumultuous debate, to a withdrawal of the recommendation from the committee, and the ultimate removal of Saddleback in 2023.

The historical issue is connected to the textual one. The Baptist Faith and Message (BFM) makes clear that the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture, and the SBC Constitution requires cooperating churches to "closely identify" with that statement of faith. It has been alarming that some leaders could express confusion about the clear biblical teaching restricting the office of pastor to men that is required by the BFM and SBC Constitution.

Those issues led Mike Law to propose this amendment. The brief language of the amendment makes clear that our convention knows what a pastor is and that faithfulness regarding the role of a pastor is necessary for participation with the SBC. The intention is to correct real confusion that has taken place.

What Is NOT at Stake with this Amendment

There has been as much confusion about this potential amendment as anything I have seen since I began paying attention to SBC life. Let me mention a few serious confusions.

First, this debate is not about who is a complementarian and who is not. Many faithful leaders who believe the office of pastor is reserved for men are not in favor of this amendment. One of those men is the current SBC president, Bart Barber. Bart is a good man, a faithful pastor, and has been repeatedly clear that his opposition to the amendment is not at odds with his clear complementarian convictions. Southern Baptists need to be clear on this matter and debate the issues rather than mischaracterizing good folks.

Second, this debate is not about running good churches out of the convention who are confused about who a pastor is. This amendment is not targeting churches who ignorantly and innocently give the title of pastor to a woman. The same section of the Constitution, which would forbid churches with female pastors, also forbids racism, homosexuality, and sexual abuse. The Credentials Committee, which investigates constitutional violations like these, has the authority to engage erring churches and give them an opportunity to repent. This same engagement and opportunity would be possible on the issue of female pastors.

The Southern Baptist Convention is built on churches and their rock-solid biblical convictions. The churches own the convention and send messengers to tell it what to do. Furthermore, those messengers have always trusted their committee members to do some of the most important business in our convention. These committees have done the hard work of turning our entities from liberalism, of writing our documents, and of addressing crises like sexual abuse.

The argument that the SBC cannot take a stand on biblical faithfulness because our churches might be ignorant and our committees could be reckless is not only new but dangerous. If our convention is stuck with committees that are unwise and injudicious and churches that can't figure out what a pastor is, then our convention will not be able to function.

What Really Is at Stake

The real issue on this matter is the Bible. The Bible is crystal clear that the office of pastor is reserved for men as qualified by Scripture ([1 Timothy 2:11-12](#); [3:1-7](#); [Titus 1:6](#)). Baptists know this. That clear knowledge makes this whole thing much easier than some of the overcooked debates around this issue would lead you to believe.

It is this simple. The Law Amendment has been placed before Southern Baptists. The question the amendment asks is whether we agree with Scripture that the office of pastor is reserved for men. Brothers and sisters, the clear answer—the *only* answer—is yes. Simple faithfulness demands our agreement with Scripture.

We may prefer not to talk about this issue. We may wish that we could focus on other matters instead of this one. Believe me, I understand that. But I also understand that we get to choose the issues we address far less than we would like. The fact of the matter is that right now, we are being asked what a pastor is. We must tell the truth.

Good folks have practical concerns about what this means for the behavior of our committees and well-intended but confused congregations. Those questions are important, and we need to figure them out. I am brimming with confidence that a convention full of faithful churches and wise and loving people will be able to figure those things out.

What we cannot do is avoid addressing those practical questions tomorrow by dodging faithfulness today. What we cannot do is go on the record saying no to an issue that is so clear in Scripture. What we must never do is betray the heritage we have received from a previous generation of Southern Baptists who worked so hard in the conservative resurgence to recover a denomination at the brink of theological ruin.

I do not believe Southern Baptists won a battle in the 1980s about biblical authority just to get to the 2020s and fight about whether we would obey that authority.

The question in front of us is convictional, not practical. The world will be watching. More than that, the Author of Scripture will be watching. So much is at stake. We must take a stand on the clear teaching of the Bible and our own documents. We must approve this amendment.

Dr. [Heath Lambert](#) is the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, FL. He is the author of several books, including *The Great Love of God: Encountering God's Heart for a Hostile World*.

Pastor Leroy



APC provides free resources to the community including:

- Pregnancy Testing
- Obstetric Ultrasound
- Community Referrals
- Post Abortion Counseling
- Miscarriage and Child Loss Support
- Baby Supplies

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

May 19th-June 20th



How can you help us build a legacy for life?

1. Take a baby bottle
2. Fill it with change, cash or checks
3. Return it to your church office by 6/20/24

For more information:
Contact APC Camilla at 229-458-1452
amim@alphapregnancycenter.net

Baby bottles for the Baby Bottle Campaign for the Alpha Pregnancy Center have been placed in the back of the church in the windows and on the table leading into the Sanctuary

CHURCH FAMILY!

June 9, 3-6 pm Community Outreach
We will be going to Francis Davis Park and the Hand Building to meet people, play games, share the gospel, advertise VBS and give out hotdogs and chips! We will divide into 2 groups to cover both at the same time. We will **meet this Wednesday, May 29 at 6:00 pm** in the Youth room to discuss the details. Please come and see what you can do!

FROM YOUR YOUTH PASTOR

FBC Summer Youth Schedule 7 - 12 Grades

Sunday 9:30 Breakfast
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service

Wednesday 6-8pm Dinner/Youth Meeting
Wednesday nights may include going to various homes - meet at church first!

Thursday 5:30. Feed the Hungry @ Pelham Depot

June 9 Park Outreach! 3 -6 pm

15 Saturday! Beach Trip! 7:45 am

16-21 Teen Camp 7-12 Grades \$100 @ Camp Crosspoint

23-28 VBS 5:15-8:00
Sign up with Cindy if you want to help!

July 20 Wild Adventures / For King & Country concert \$50 if you do not have a season pass!

27-28 Senior Choice Trip? TBD

Questions: Harold 229-221-1565 Cindy 229-221-2336

In Christ, Bro. Harold



Just a Game

*Welcome to the kingdom, the land of bought and sold
A world of real-life fantasy where truths are seldom told
Try hard to remember all that glitters is not gold
You can pay the piper, but you cannot buy his soul*

*What do you choose, now, what do you believe, now
Who are you gonna trust?
All your dreams and fancy schemes just crumble into dust
Calm and cool and computerized to calculate and collect
We wait and watch and wonder, just which puppet they'll elect*

*It's just a game, you're in it all the way
It's just a game, don't let yourself slip away
It's such a shame, I heard somebody say
It's just a game, and all I can do...is play*

(Lyrics from the Song "Just a Game" by Triumph, RCA Records, 1979)

Chess is a two-player strategy board game played by millions of people worldwide. Each player begins with 16 pieces: one king, one queen, two rooks, two knights, two bishops, and eight pawns. Each of the six piece types moves differently, with the most powerful being the queen and the least powerful the pawn. The objective is to checkmate the opponent's king by placing it under an inescapable threat of capture. To this end, a player's pieces are used to attack and capture the opponent's pieces, while supporting each other.

Out of all the pieces the least of these is the pawn. The pawn is usually used to gain an advantage for the other pieces and then sacrificed. You should also know that unless a pawn is attacking another piece making one diagonal move, it can only move forward. In the game of life you can feel like the pawn. Constantly moved around, sacrificed, and then discarded. There is so much thinking involved. Every move or decision must be made after much prayer, planning, strategy, and tactic because remember that you always have an opponent who has plans for your downfall. As the Bible says, do not be ignorant of your enemy's devices. It doesn't take much for Satan to gain the advantage over you.

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings." (1 Peter 5:8-9).

God's Word will last forever - everything else will disappear. This is true whether the devil or mankind believes it or not. The only reason the enemy still exists now is for the Lord's use as tools for our learning and growing in faith. God's plan is to erase them and the 'chess board' (the earth) permanently by fire (***read Matthew 25:41-46***). The world and its evil desires will pass away but whoever does the will of God will live forever (***read 1 John 2:15-17***).

In light of this reality, how should we live? Most of the things we work for or worry about won't matter in three weeks, let alone three months or three years. We focus on the trivial and forget to pursue the eternal. But 1,000 years from now, you'll still be glad you invested your life for Jesus Christ and in spreading the gospel. Life can be a chess game, so when Satan reminds us of our past, remind him of his future. It may feel like just a game, but choose to be a pawn for Jesus and not a pawn of the world (***read Romans 12:2***).

"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28)

Bro. Andrew

Our Members Birthdays in the Month of June

June 2 Wren Norman
June 4 Nichole Hilliard
June 4 Noah Wilson
June 8 Rick Winters
June 13 Marsha Walton
June 24 Christine Wallace
June 26 Bette Frosteg
June 26 Billy Thompson
June 26 Betty Sellers
June 28 Helene Smith
June 29 David Kitchens
June 29 Simon Mejia
June 30 Lynn Scott



Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed on Friday

Activate The Prayer Chain



Tina Sellers 294-8443
Helen Schmidt 294-2818
Sandra Peck 294-8073

Deacons of the Month:

Keith Norman (229) 891-8125

Neal Hilliard (229) 413-2721

Staff at Home

Rev. Leroy Williams 321-292-9650
Pastor leroy.j.williams43@gmail.com

Rev. Harold Smith 229-221-1565
Minister of Youth harold@pelhamfbc.org

Rev. Andrew Chaffer 229-319-0472
Minister of Music revchaffer@gmail.com

Sandra Peck 229-327-6026
Ministry Assistant eshiver@pelhamfbc.org

Wesley Palmer 229-403-2340
Deacon Chairman wesdawg02@yahoo.com

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“In God We Trust”

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
P. O. Box 287
Pelham, GA 31779

Prayer List

MEMBERS

Don Bodin	medical
John Butler	heart
Verlyn Fenn	heart
Larry Frosteg	medical
Jimmy Godwin	medical
Shirley Humphries	medical
RayJean Leggett	medical
Chris Singleton	liver/losing blood

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Harris Adams (Debbie Palmer)	medical
Mark Bodin	medical
Buddy Campbell	cancer
David Chapman (Nan)	medical
Mark Davis (son-in-law of Brims)	cancer
Sharon Dixon (Maloy)	medical Heart
Connor Fielder (Theressia)	coma (wreck)
Ken Harper (V Thomas)	cancer
Randy Harris (James)	cancer
Rick Herren (nephew Hurst)	brain tumor
Harley Johnson (Fenn)	melanoma
Chris Leggett (Feagin)	medical
Leslie McDowell	pace maker
Jeanine Mellow (Lock)	cancer
Chris Mobley (Campbell)	cancer
John & Jean Murphy (Monday)	medical
David Parr (Anderson)	medical
Sue Sadler (Fenn)	heart
Ann Sherman (Sherrod)	cancer
Dorothy Sizemore	medical
Brenda Taylor (Lenora Butler)	cancer
Candace Trimble (Monday)	medical
Cindy Warren (Bishop)	cancer
Walt Younkin (Godwin)	cancer

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

Lane Butler, Mitchell County Convalescent Center
 Buddy Campbell, Magnolia Manor, Moultrie
 June Carter, Legacy Village, Rm 208, Thomasville
 Leon Davis, Parkway
 Eunice Hatcher, Parkway
 Gary Hurst, Bainbridge Healthcare
 Carl & Susan Long, Savannah Court, Camilla
 Lula Scott, Savannah Court, Camilla
 Joyce Walton, Southern Pines
 Bill Willis, Parkway

On **June 9**, a list of eligible Deacons will be presented to the Church.

On **June 23**, Deacon Ballots will be in the church bulletin and on the center front pew for voting on these Deacons.

Sunday, July 14

We will be having a **Senior Adult Sunday** at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Please join us to hear guest speaker, Ken Cloud and for great fellowship. Transportation to and from the morning and the evening sessions, including Sunday School, will be provided for those who wish it. A form is being placed in the Church Bulletin and in the Crier. You can also call the church office if you wish to be placed on the transportation list.

First Baptist Church - Pelham

SUNDAY

9:15 am	Morning Mingle - Breakfast
9:40 am	Children's Sunday School Opening Rally
9:45 am	Adult & Teen Sunday School Classes meet
10:00 am	Children's Sunday School Classes meet
11:00 am	Morning Worship Service and on Facebook @First Baptist Church Pelham
5:00 pm	Ladies Bible Study Resumes on September 8

Monday

6:30 pm Men's Bible Study

Tuesday

12:00 Noon Men's Lunch/Bible Study
 7:00 pm Men's Prison Ministry

Wednesday

5:00- 5:30 pm	Kid's Choir
5:00- 6:00 pm	Supper (Will resume after summer)
6:45- 7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
5:00- 7:30 pm	Children Program (Resumes after Summer)
6:00-8:00 pm	Youth Meeting
6:00 - 6:45 pm	Choir

Staff Meeting
Tuesday, June 4 at 4:30 pm
Tuesday, June 18 at 4:30 pm

FBC Prison Ministry
June 4 Neal Hilliard, Gene Sellers
June 11 Harold Smith, Donny Palmer
June 18 Leroy Williams, Gene Sellers
June 25 Andrew Chaffer, Keith Norman

Morning Mingle Breakfast
Please come and join us @9::15 am

Breakfast Teams
June 2 David Drury Class
June 9 Children & Youth Teachers
June 16 Nichole Hilliard Class
June 23 Laura Jane Gray Class
June 30 Dianne Fenn Class

Nursery Volunteers

June 2	Kristy & Wesley Palmer, Marlene Bishop
June 9	Katie & JT Thompson, Lucy, Tina Seller
June 16	Erica & Matt Hilliard, Jessie & Will Norman
June 23	Andrea Feagin, Barbara Feagin
June 30	Lori Williams, Lydia, Karen Moltz

BIBLE READING PLAN FOR JUNE

June 1	Song of Solomon 1-8
June 2	Proverbs 1-3
June 3	Proverbs 4-6
June 4	Proverbs 7-9
June 5	Proverbs 10-12
June 6	Proverbs 13-15
June 7	Proverbs 16-18
June 8	Proverbs 19-23
June 9	Proverbs 22-24
June 10	1 Kings 5-6; 2 Chronicles 2-3
June 11	1 Kings 7; 2 Chronicles 4
June 12	1 Kings 8; 2 Chronicles 5
June 13	2 Chronicles 6-7; Psalm 136
June 14	Psalm 134, 146-150
June 15	1 Kings 9; 2 Chronicles 8
June 16	Proverbs 25-26
June 17	Proverbs 27-29
June 18	Ecclesiastes 1-6
June 19	Ecclesiastes 7-12
June 20	1 Kings 10-11; 2 Chronicles 9
June 21	Proverbs 30-31
June 22	1 Kings 12-14
June 23	2 Chronicles 10-12
June 24	1 Kings 15:1-24; 2 Chronicles 13-16
June 25	1 Kings 15:25-34; 1 Kings 16:1-34; 2 Chronicles 17
June 26	1 Kings 17-19
June 27	1 Kings 20-21
June 28	1 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 18
June 29	2 Chronicles 19-23
June 30	Obadiah; Psalm 82-83