

Southdale Bible Chapel - Policy - Doctrinal and Contemporary Issue Positions

Background

The Lord has given us different backgrounds, perspectives, experiences, circumstances that may lead to us to hold different positions on topics that are controversial in Christendom today. In spite of these differences, as Christians, the Lord has commanded to pursue unity within the church.

This document provides the elders' position regarding unity and dealing with differences in two primary areas; **a) Doctrinal Positions** and **b) Contemporary Issue Positions**.

- a) Doctrinal Positions:** These may include differences in opinions in some doctrinal areas, such as Election, Predestination, Human Responsibility, God's Sovereignty and Eschatology.
- b) Contemporary Issue Positions:** These areas may include vaccine positions, homeschooling, Christian schooling and public schooling, birth control, celebration of religious holidays and alcohol use.

Scriptural Principles

1. **Unity in the Church:** "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." - Ephesians 4:3 NIV
2. **Guarding against Division:** "Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them." - Titus 3:10 NIV
3. **Considering Others:** "Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters." - Romans 14:1 NIV
4. **Actively Pursuing Peace:** "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." - Romans 12:18 NIV

Expectation of those in Fellowship at Southdale

The following are expectations for those who attend Southdale Bible Chapel regularly or are considered in fellowship at Southdale.

Doctrinal Positions

As elders, we have agreed to the following Doctrinal Position, which is published as our statement of faith (<https://southdale.church/about>).

We expect that teaching within the church, whether publically or within small groups, to be consistent with this doctrinal position.

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We understand there will be some who disagree with portions of the doctrinal position. We will continue to welcome those in our fellowship, providing they respect Southdale's official doctrinal position and adhere to this policy.

We ask that individuals holding differing doctrinal positions not proactively, publicly, socially or electronically promote their position to those attending Southdale Bible Chapel.

Contemporary Issue Positions

In Contemporary Issue Positions we understand, and expect, individuals and families will wrestle through these areas. These areas include, but are not limited to the following:

- Schooling Choices: Home, Public, Christian Schooling
- Birth Control
- Religious Holidays: Celebration of Christmas, Easter
- Vaccines
- Position on Alcohol

We ask that individuals and families within Southdale not proactively, publicly, electronically, socially promote their positions to those attending Southdale Bible Chapel. When asked for your position or experience, it is acceptable to share your position but do so respectfully.

Summary

The Lord Jesus Christ prayed, just prior to the cross, that we, as the Church would be united. *John 17:23 "I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me".*

Our ongoing witness to the community depends on unity within the church. May we actively pursue unity and maintain it.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to one of the elders.

Elders of Southdale Bible Chapel