



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

October 27th, 2019

Welcome to Covenant Baptist Church. We are a Reformed church committed to three things:

- **The Exaltation of God**

We desire that the people at Covenant truly understand who God is and His rightful place in their lives as their Lord and sovereign Savior.

- **The Edification of the Saints**

We consider it extremely important to correctly teach the Bible, verse by verse, so we can properly have the Holy Spirit apply it to our lives.

- **The Evangelization of the Sinner**

We understand that God has given us the responsibility to be stewards of the Gospel and that means sharing it exactly like God gave it to us with those who need Jesus.

<https://covenantbaptists.org>

Covenant Baptist Church Schedule

Bible Education Hour (Systematic Theology)
~ 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship ~ 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday Prayer Service ~ 7:00 P.M.

*(We are not interested in traditional worship
or contemporary worship. We are only
interested in true worship.)*

~

Order of Worship

(October 27th, 2019)

At the Cross—284

Prayer and Scripture Reading: Proverbs 15:16-33

Blessed Assurance—403

Grace Greater Than Our Sin—78

Message: The Promise of Illumination and
Revelation by the Holy Spirit —John 14:25-26

Closing Hymn: Oh, How He Loves You and Me—157

Table of Contents

1. Announcements and Book of the Month—pg. 2
2. Events—pg. 3
3. What was Missing from Caring Well (article by Sarah Ascol)—pg. 4
4. Church News, Local and Global—pg. 7
5. Resources for Biblical Counseling pg. 10
6. Directions—pg. 11

Upcoming cleaning volunteers:

November 2: Shumpert/Smoak

November 9: Egan

November 16: Olds/Shealy

Deacon on-call list:

October 27: Daryl Kyzer

November 3: Chris Waddell

November 10: Kenny Lucas

Church Bookstore:

Purchases (cash only) can be made by seeing Annsley or Cristan Smoak,
or following the instructions left near the bookstore entrance.

Announcements—October 27th, 2019

In preparation for worship, a prelude is played by the pianist. When this begins, please find your seat and prepare for worship.

—
There are some Living Waters gospel tracts in the foyer for anyone who would like to hand them out on Halloween. It is a great opportunity to spread the gospel to families around your neighborhood as they come to your door.

—
This year we again plan to help with the Kenya orphan ministry by providing the funds needed to purchase clothes and uniforms for Christmas. We will accept donations through December 8. The uniforms are much needed items for the children. We will have the price breakdown next week for individual items, and for the uniforms. If you would like to start giving toward this project, just earmark your check or envelopes “Kenya Orphans Christmas”.

—
There is a communication board in the Fellowship Hall. It includes a calendar to sign up for using the facilities at the church. You may borrow tables and chairs to take home for a function. Please put your name and the number of items you borrow on the calendar. You are responsible for cleaning the facilities after you use them, including removing your trash. The board will also be available to advertise your need to remarket items, or to offer your services for hire. Marie Lucas is the coordinator for this board. Her number is 803-397-9082.

—
Greek class will resume on November 17 at 6 PM.

—
Please plan to attend Dixiana Baptist Church as they will be holding a conference Oct 27-30 from 6-8 PM each evening. The topic is “The New Testament Church” and speakers include Chris Platt, Charles Swann, Brandon Sandifer, and Mitch Campbell. There is also a free meal provided each night from 5:30-6. The address is 3516 Charleston Hwy, West Columbia 29172. Oct 30 we will be cancelling our Wednesday evening service so you can attend the conference at Dixiana Baptist Church.

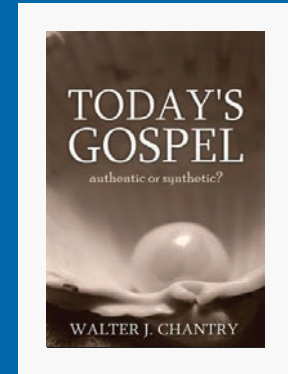
—
The Bible Education Hour will now be meeting in the fellowship area. This will allow those who may be visiting to go into the sanctuary instead of remaining in the foyer until the service begins. We will no longer have BE on 2nd Sundays due to meal/potluck preparation.

—
Anyone submitting a receipt or bill for reimbursement can now send a copy via email instead of providing a paper copy: treasurer@covenantbaptistchurchsc.org

Book of the Week:

Today's Gospel: Authentic or Synthetic?

Walter J. Chantry



“Differences between much of today’s preaching and that of Jesus are not petty; they are enormous. The chief errors are not in emphasis or approach but in the heart of the Gospel message. Were there a deficiency in one of the areas mentioned in these pages, it would be serious. But to ignore all - the attributes of God, the holy law of God, repentance, a call to bow to the enthroned Christ - and to pervert the doctrine of assurance, is the most vital mistake.”

Read more and purchase at: <https://www.amazon.com/Today's-Gospel-Authentic-Walter-Chantry/dp/0851510272>

G3 Conference: Worship

<https://g3conference.com/>

“The worship of God has both a theological foundation that must not be ignored as well as practical implications for every Christian and local church.

“Does God mandate how we worship and how do we discern what is acceptable worship to God? In an age where pastors are entering the pulpit on zip lines and where motorcycle stunts are being attempted as illustrations during corporate worship—we must ask ourselves what does God expect and what does he forbid?

“In the 2020 G3 Conference, we will look at the subject of the worship of God—seeking to understand the theological foundation and real life implications for us in the context of our local churches. Make your plans to join us by securing your seat!”

Worship is our innermost being responding with praise for all that God is, through our attitudes, actions, thoughts, and words, based on the truth of God as He has revealed Himself.

—John MacArthur



Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class:

Our Greek class, “It’s Greek to You and Me”, will continue November 17th the fellowship hall at 6 P.M.



2nd Sunday Fellowship Dinner:

November 10th is our next second Sunday fellowship meal. Please plan to bring a dish and join us after the service! Also remember that we usually have visitors who stay for the meal, and you are encouraged to bring more than a small side dish so that there is plenty to go around.

Extra:

**Should Christians Participate in Halloween?
—7 Scriptures to Consider**

<https://michellelesley.com/2019/10/22/should-christians-participate-in-halloween-7-scriptures-to-consider-3/>

What was Missing from Caring Well—by Sarah Ascol

At the age of 25 I was sexually assaulted. I say this first not because it is a club membership that I particularly flaunt, but because establishing oneself as a victim seems to be the permission slip needed if one wishes to be granted the right to speak on the topic of sexual abuse.

This past weekend I attended the ERLC's National Conference—Caring Well: Equipping Churches to Confront the Abuse Crisis. It was easy to appreciate the hard work that clearly went into preparing this event. From the location and vendors, to the inclusion of survivor stories and the prayer room available throughout the weekend, the organizers did an excellent job of setting the stage for a topic of great importance. Southern Baptist churches could benefit greatly from thoughtful conversations about how we deal with abuse. However, as the event concluded Saturday morning, I was left with the unsettling feeling of something missing from the discussion. Upon reviewing my notes, I realized several key things were absent: a focus on the Gospel, a promotion of truth, and a reliance on Scripture to equip the church.

The Gospel is big enough to deal with real sin

Amid numerous calls for justice and repentance, there was little direction to the work of the cross. Abuse is sin. Covering up abuse is sin. Lying about abuse is sin. And at the cross sin meets its defeat. This is the bedrock of what we believe. It is the work of Jesus on the cross that gives us the power to deal ruthlessly with sin in our lives. This is the hope that every pastor, children's ministry leader, Sunday School teacher, parent, survivor, advocate, and average church member needs to understand. If we don't dig deep into what happened at the cross, then all the tools we may use to fight against the sin of sexual abuse become impotent. Of what eternal good is legal justice without the gospel?

Peter makes this clear in his first epistle. In the first chapter, he begins with a magnificent rehearsal of the gospel.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (1 Peter 1:3-5).

Peter refuses to assume the gospel, even though he is writing to believers. He takes time to lay the foundation because it is on that basis that he will call them to repentance and change (1 Peter 2:1). It is only after reminding Christians just who their



What was Missing from Caring Well—by Sarah Ascol (cont.)

Savior was that he issues the challenge for them to prepare their minds for action (1 Peter 1:13), to be holy in all their conduct because God is holy (1 Peter 1:15), to purify their minds and love one another earnestly with pure hearts (1 Peter 1:22). And why? Because “you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God” (1 Peter 1:23).

The Gospel frees us up to pursue holiness and to deal with the ugliness of sin with steely-eyed determination because Jesus has already conquered sin and death and the grave in our place. Without the gospel, or when the gospel is simply assumed, all other tools we may use to fight against sexual abuse in the church are empty. We need the gospel desperately. I wish I had heard that clearly stated by the ERLC speakers at the Caring Well Conference.

Truth matters

Throughout the conference, attendees were reminded again and again that their primary role in dealing with sexual abuse was to listen and believe those who bring allegations. On the surface, this seems like the compassionate and proper response to those who have been abused, and from one perspective, it is. God calls us to have compassion on those who have been sinned against, particularly those who cannot help themselves. Jesus sets the ultimate example of this, welcoming little children, honoring women, touching lepers. The church must emulate our Savior as we care for those who have been wounded by the sin of others.

But being compassionate towards the wounded is not the completion of our mandate. We are also called to be sober minded, and to recognize that we have an enemy who delights in deceit, cover-ups, and lies. In contrast, our Savior names Himself “the truth” and as His people, we are to place high value on the pursuit and defense of truth. If we are to care well for those who have been abused, then we will help them to pursue and defend truth, knowing that, in Christ, we have nothing to fear from the truth.

Various speakers offered excellent advice on practical ways to do this—from recognizing the need (and often legal mandate) to report allegations of abuse to creating a culture of honest conversations on hard topics with our children. However the dangerous practice of complete belief of a report without questioning any aspect was also widely trumpeted. When we accept the instruction to believe all victims unconditionally, we buy into the lie that there is only ever one side to a story. The book of Proverbs offers some wisdom here (“The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him” 18:17) and Jesus clearly lays out a process of dealing with sin that includes having “every charge...established by the evidence of two or three witnesses” (Matthew 18:16).

What was Missing from Caring Well—by Sarah Ascol (cont.)

Allegations of sexual abuse in our churches should be treated compassionately, swiftly, and seriously, but always with an eye for the truth. When what is reported is a crime then proper governmental authorities should be involved, as Peter clearly instructs.

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people (1 Peter 2:13-15).

Such allegations should also involve the process of pursuing church discipline, which necessitates seeking the truth. That's not often comfortable. But we are not called to be comfortable, and our desire to care well for the abused can not be allowed to override the pursuit of truth and justice. SBC President JD Greear has called for churches to “err on the side of the protection of the abused.” While his motive is commendable, if we understand that the abused are always best served by truth, wouldn't it better—if we must err—to do so while seeking truth?

The Church is equipped

Perhaps the most unsettling aspect of the Caring Well conference was the pervasive theme that the church should stay in her lane. You are not equipped to deal with this, those on the stage explained. We don't have enough women in leadership to deal with abuse well. Pastors are not equipped even to choose the correct organization to help with training against or investigating an abuse allegation. We must leave such things as counseling to the professionals.

It is as if we are supposed to think this is a new problem. As if the Corinthian church wasn't rife with sexual abuse and sin. As if the New Testament was written in a vacuum, outside the context of rampant sexual debauchery in the Roman culture. It's simply not true.

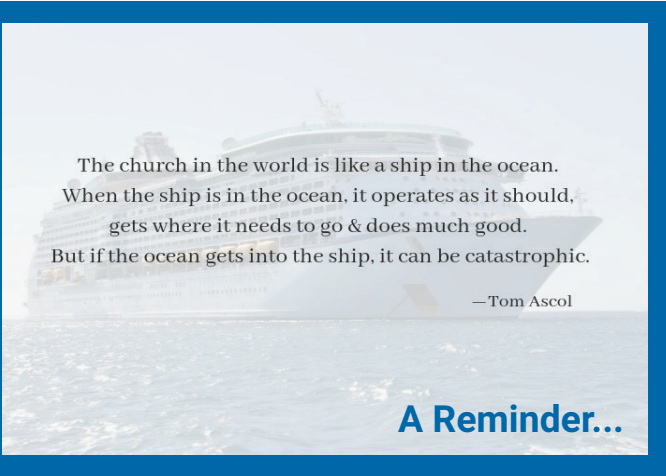
While there is an important role for those with specialized training—doctors, lawyers, law enforcement, counselors—they must not replace the central place of the church in dealing with sexual sin. It is breathtakingly arrogant to act as if the wisdom of men can take the place of the Word of God revealed in the Scripture. God's word is powerful and it makes no small claims about that power. “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

God has given His people His word and it must form the foundation of the church's care for those impacted by sexual sin. While practical training and tools are part of God's good gift to us, the church cannot abdicate her job of standing against sin and bringing the hope of the gospel to those whose lives

What was Missing from Caring Well—by Sarah Ascol (cont.)

have been wrecked by it. I wish someone had called for the church to stand on the Word and take an active role in discipline and counseling rather than simply getting out of the way.

The best sessions of the conference were those giving practical advice on recognizing grooming behaviors and screening church volunteers as a way to protect against sexual abuse occurring at a church. The Christian lawyers from Ministry Safe did a better job of offering tools to the church without attempting to supersede her authority and role than did any pastor or advocate who took the stage. Had such excellent practical training been coupled with a serious consideration of the power of the Gospel, a call to holiness and truth among the people of God, and a firm reliance on the Scripture as valuable in preparing the church to respond to abuse, then this conference would have truly fulfilled its goal of equipping churches to confront the abuse crisis. Unfortunately, this wasn't the case—and this sexual assault survivor left much more concerned about the SBC's ability to help churches care well.



The church in the world is like a ship in the ocean.
When the ship is in the ocean, it operates as it should,
gets where it needs to go & does much good.
But if the ocean gets into the ship, it can be catastrophic.

—Tom Ascol

A Reminder...

From:

<https://founders.org/2019/10/08/what-was-missing-from-caring-well/>

Lawyers argue Happy the elephant should have the same rights as humans —by Oliver Milman

Lawyers representing an elephant say she is being detained by the Bronx Zoo ‘illegally’ due to her personhood.

Lawyers representing an elephant have argued in New York court that their trunked client be considered a person, in a fresh attempt to upend human dominance over this designation.

Happy the elephant is, contrary to her sunny name, being detained by the Bronx Zoo “illegally”, due to her personhood, and must be released, according to her self-appointed legal team.

The case’s instigator, an animal rights group, hopes it will effect a legal breakthrough that will elevate the status of elephants, which the group calls “extraordinarily complex creatures” similar to humans that should have the fundamental right to liberty.

On Monday, the Bronx supreme court was the latest stage in what has been a quixotic pursuit of animal personhood by the Nonhuman Rights Project. Steven Wise, the founder and lead attorney of the group, has led a quest that is dogged – appropriately, as he has ruminated that dogs may be “legal persons”, too – to confer personhood on a pair of chimpanzees and now Happy.

Wise has yet to taste success. In 2017, a New York appeals court ruled that Kiko and Tommy, two chimps in their 30s kept in captivity in the state, could not be considered persons in order to invoke habeas corpus – the right to avoid unlawful detention.

A presiding judge wrote that while chimps share many fundamental characteristics of humans, it would be difficult to hold any ape to account for its personhood by arresting and prosecuting it for a crime. A further blow to Wise came in August, when a Connecticut court similarly decided that three elephants – Beulah, Minnie and Karen – could not be deemed persons.

Undeterred, Wise is now arguing on behalf of Happy, an animal that scientists found can recognize herself in a mirror. The 47-year-old elephant has spent almost all her life in a one-acre enclosure at the Bronx Zoo after being captured along with six other calves – named Sleepy, Grumpy, Sneezy, Doc, Dopey and Bashful – in Thailand and brought to the US.

Happy and Grumpy cohabited until 2002, when they were relocated to an enclosure with two other elephants – Maxine and Patty. This arrangement

Lawyers argue Happy the elephant should have the same rights as humans —by Oliver Milman (cont.)

turned sour when Maxine and Patty fatally attacked Grumpy. Happy has never been able to live contentedly with the duo, with a recent reconciliation attempt ending badly.

Happy's lone captivity is anathema to the intricate social arrangements elephants have in the wild, according to experts cited by the Nonhuman Rights Project, which wants her relocated to a far larger sanctuary in California that has other elephants.

"Wouldn't that just be like a larger prison?" asked the Bronx supreme court judge Alison Tuitt, who earlier in proceedings remarked that she had watched a TV show in which a lemur attacked its own reflection in the mirror.

"That's a bit like saying the Earth is a prison," Wise replied. The two later had an inconclusive exchange over whether a guide dog could claim personhood.

During lengthy testimony, Wise compared Happy's situation to the plight of slaves in the US, who weren't considered fully human, and pointed out how a river in New Zealand and a Colombian portion of the Amazon rainforest have been granted human-like rights. "She is one depressed elephant," Wise said of Happy, unhappily. "She's being harmed every day."

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), which runs Bronx Zoo, strongly rejects any notion that Happy is distressed or badly treated. Jim Breheny, the zoo's director, has called the lawsuit "ludicrous" and said the Nonhuman Rights Project is "exploiting the Bronx Zoo elephants to advance their own failing cause".

WCS said that Happy is not kept in isolation given that she has tactile contact with Patty through a barrier, to ensure neither elephant is hurt. The conservation organization said that Happy is "subordinate in nature", is comfortable with her keepers and likely to be bullied by other elephants if she were to be moved. The zoo has declined to add additional elephants for the past decade.

"It would be irresponsible and risky for Happy's wellbeing for us to bow to uninformed outside voices with political agendas," a WCS spokesperson said.

Lawyers argue Happy the elephant should have the same rights as humans —by Oliver Milman (cont.)

Polling of Americans has shown strong support for granting animals the same rights as humans, with the concept also backed by some philosophers who argue that animals have moral standing and shouldn't be considered merely as property.

US courts, however, disagree and critics have claimed unintended consequences of animal personhood, such as the potential erosion of rights of disabled people, and difficulties defining which animals deserve rights and who speaks for them.

The idea of "freedom" from humans may also be more opaque at second glance. On Monday, across the road from the court in the Bronx's Joyce Kilmer Park, starlings cavorted in the bubbling water of a grand fountain dedicated to the German poet Johann Heine. The contrast with Happy, and other captive animals, would appear obvious.

But in the past month it has been revealed that human activity in North America has wiped out an incredible one in four birds since 1970. Two-thirds of the remaining species face being obliterated due to the climate crisis. There may be freedom, even an outpouring of what may look to us as joy in the weak autumn sunshine. But there's not much escape.

Happy's case will plod on regardless, with the further court date set for January.

From:
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/oct/22/lawyers-argue-happy-the-elephant-should-have-the-same-rights-as-humans>



Strategies for Fighting Depression Well—by Jim Newheiser

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/fighting-depression-well/>



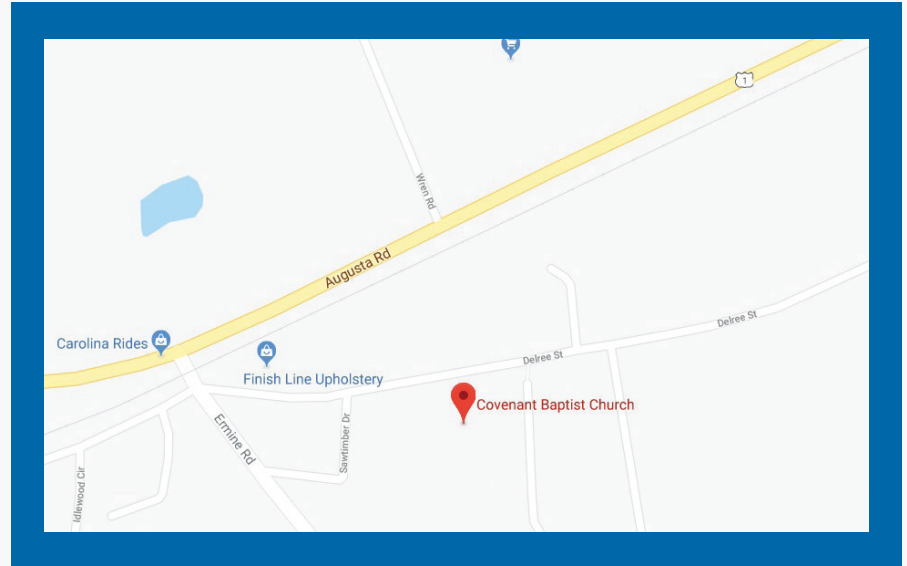
Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

3535 Delree Street

West Columbia, SC 29170

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>



*If you are interested in joining our church, please speak to one of our elders or deacons.
They will be happy to give you the information you need.*