

Editorial: Reconciliation: What the world needs now

June 26, 2025

A broken world full of broken relationships doesn't just need love but a specific expression of love—reconciliation. It starts with Jesus.

Editorial: Tiny fraction of Baptists deciding for the whole

June 26, 2025

Only 0.04 percent of Southern Baptists voted on a constitutional amendment barring women pastors. Editor Eric Black considers why.

Editorial: Controversy is not sum total of SBC

June 26, 2025

Editor Eric Black presents a different view of Southern Baptists, the SBC and its annual meeting than many would expect.

Editorial: Southern Baptists' religious freedom puzzle

June 26, 2025

Southern Baptists plan to champion religious freedom once again in a proposed resolution, but it presents a contradiction of the principle.

Editorial: It's time for a new drumbeat in the SBC

June 26, 2025

Southern Baptists might like the news reports and the op-eds about sexual abuse in the SBC to stop. But they're not going to ... for a while.

Editorial: Why did Baptist

Standard publish that?

June 26, 2025

Last week, we republished an article that elicited quick responses from *Baptist Standard* readers wanting to know why we republished it.

From the beginning of my tenure as executive director, publisher and editor of the *Baptist Standard*, I have told our readers we are accountable directly to them—to you. If a reader has a concern, question, comment or complaint, communicate it directly to me. I am the responsible party.

Likewise, if we fail to maintain our core commitments to the redeeming and reconciling work of Jesus Christ, historic Baptist principles, and responsible journalism, communicate our failure directly to me. I am the responsible party.

I am grateful whenever readers do just that.

The most recent questions raised—the second questioner doing so on Facebook—merit my response here.

The article and the questions

At 1:58 p.m. on Wed., May 14, we republished a news article from Religion News Service titled “[Forced out at Myers Park, Boswell starts new church.](#)”

At 2:07 p.m. the same day, I received an email from a Texas Baptist pastor asking if the Baptist General Convention of Texas is affiliated with either of the churches referenced in the article and for an explanation of why a story about “LGBTQ affirming churches” is in the *Baptist Standard*, when the BGCT does not affiliate with such churches.

I’m not sharing the pastor’s name or location because it was a private

communication with me.

I thanked the pastor for his question and stated, “I’m certain the BGCT is not affiliated with the churches connected to Boswell.”

“In answer to what I think is your broader question,” I continued, “The Baptist Standard, as an independent partner of the BGCT, is not limited to publishing news only about BGCT-affiliated churches and institutions. Our intent here was not to affirm a church but to report on what is happening among some Baptists, similar to the article “[Former Southern Baptist Josh Buice quits G3 Conference](#)” we published on [May 12].”

Over the weekend, a second Texas Baptist pastor commented on our Facebook post containing the same RNS story on Boswell. Since his comment is public, I will provide his name and his full comment.

“Why is the Baptist Standard sharing this with no critique or comment?” Dustin Slaton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Round Rock, asked in [his Facebook comment](#).

“The article originated from RNS, and is clearly in support of this pro-LGBTQ+ church. With no additional comment from The Standard, it seems like they are sharing this in support of the article’s content and conclusions. I certainly hope not. Maybe some clarity could be added before the article?” Slaton commented.

Why we republished

We republished the article in question as a report on what is happening among Baptists, not to affirm the two churches, the pastor or their position on LGBTQ+.

We did not offer critique or comment anywhere on the republished article, because our view of responsible journalism is that news and opinion need

to be published in separate articles. This is a point about which publishers and readers need to talk with each other.

Do we have the same definition of “responsible journalism?” I’m not sure we do, and I don’t mean that as a criticism of readers. I think it’s a result of the most prominent media outlets of our time blending news and opinion. Do readers want us to follow the example of those media outlets, or do they want us to keep news and opinion separated? This is an honest question.

What labeling makes the difference between news and opinion most clear to the reader? You’d think I would know the answer to that question, but based on periodic reader comments, it’s clear I don’t.

Where we stand

In direct response to Slaton’s concern that the *Baptist Standard* may be “in support of the article’s contents and conclusions,” I have a two-part response.

First, what specific contents and conclusions are being referenced? Here again, this gets to the question about responsible journalism and whether a news story should reach conclusions. As Baptist Standard Publishing understands it, news is supposed to lay out the facts and report on people’s perceptions of those facts. Conclusions are the purview of opinion articles.

Second, I take it Slaton is referring to Ben Boswell’s, Myers Park Baptist Church’s and Collective Liberation Church’s affirmation of LGBTQ+ inclusion and wondering if Baptist Standard Publishing also wishes to promote LGBTQ+ inclusion.

I and Baptist Standard Publishing hold that the Bible allows for and blesses sex only within marriage and that marriage is to be between one man and one woman. My thorough study of this issue in 2014 and 2015 did not

change my view.

I and Baptist Standard Publishing also hold that people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or otherwise are created in the image of God; are human beings worthy of love, dignity, respect and honor; and are equal to everyone else in our need for grace, forgiveness, salvation, repentance and sanctification. How all of this works out in detail is beyond the scope of this article.

My opinion

As for my comment on or critique of the story: The story is evidence that being LGBTQ+-inclusive is no safeguard against congregational division and decline. In fact, many Texas Baptists contend such inclusion is a primary source of congregational division and decline. During 2015 and the few years following, this certainly was the case in many churches I observed.

Whatever theological and social positions a church and its leadership hold, unity and growth are not givens outside the presence, indwelling, filling, guidance of and submission to the Holy Spirit. Let us be people who submit to the will of God the Father, to the lordship of Jesus Christ and to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

My thanks

I appreciate Dustin Slaton. I appreciate his seriousness about Jesus, the Bible, the church, evangelism, missions and the BGCT. And I appreciate him holding me and the *Baptist Standard* accountable.

Thank you, also, to the pastor who contacted me by email. I take you to be equally serious about Jesus, the Bible, the church, evangelism, missions

and the BGCT.

We are not perfect, we're not going to be perfect, and we're not going to pretend to be perfect.

We are accountable, and we will continue to be accountable to you, our readers, and to our commitment to the redeeming and reconciling work of Jesus Christ, historic Baptist principles, and responsible journalism.

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Editorial: ChatGPT, what's God's will for my life?

June 26, 2025

Editor Eric Black's conversation with ChatGPT this weekend left him unsettled. It started with the question: "What's God's will for my life?"

Editorial: Moms need more

from us

June 26, 2025

Being a mom is more.

More what?

More everything.

In many cultures, the stereotypical mom cooks more, cleans more, tends more to the needs *of* the family and home—even if she also works *outside* the home—than anyone else *in* the home. Notice the prepositional phrases. They matter.

Many moms know more about everybody's day, their wants, their likes, their needs, their schedules than anybody else in the home.

Mom's often balance and juggle more than anyone else in the home.

As I write, I'm watching a mom take care of her toddler son while doing yardwork, talking with her mom who just arrived and receiving a package from a delivery driver who also just arrived—all at the same time and without breaking her stride or a sweat.

Yes, being a mom is more.

Are those of us who aren't moms even aware of that?

Remembering moms are more

I asked the following question on Facebook: "What do you want people to know or remember about your mom?"

Responses indicate at least some are aware of how "more" their moms

were or are.

In short, respondents wanted people to know their moms are more than their outward appearance or a position in a family or a stereotype. Their moms were or are tough. They were or are survivors. They overcame significant challenges. They overcame the odds.

Among the Facebook responses at the time of writing, “perfect” wasn’t a word that showed up. No one’s mom was or is perfect. None of us expect our moms to be. There’s a gift tucked in there—the grace of knowing she doesn’t have to be perfect to be loved, cherished, honored and praised for being the mom she is.

Here’s another gift, I hope: I know a lot of moms who grieve they weren’t better moms. OK. May they rest in knowing they could have been worse—even a lot worse.

Pastors’ kids’ moms

Being part of a family of pastors—all of whom had or have wives and children—a common sentiment among us is the moms in our family are “much more than just a preacher’s wife.”

The moms in our family demonstrate—for those who doubt—that moms aren’t necessarily the softer, “weaker” parent. Goodness, no. One mom once was described as “a firm woman,” meaning she was not to be trifled with. It was said in respect because, well, she is “a firm woman.”

As one of the Facebook respondents pointed out, one of the moms in our family—one of the pastor wives—was a multifaceted and exceptionally talented person, a successful businesswoman and a force to be reckoned with. And, boy, was she.

The whole family

Going back to the mom taking care of her toddler son while doing all the rest. Now, her dad is here and playing with his grandson ... while Mom and Grandma trim trees in the yard.

I'm not saying anything's wrong with that. I'm just reporting the facts.

A few minutes later: Some more facts are Grandpa was only stopping by, and his playing with his grandson was its own important work. What a blessing it is for that little boy to have so many people in his life who love him, for his mom to have a father who is engaged with his family, and that the boy gets to see a mom and a grandmother who are more than stereotypes.

For moms to be more, they need more from the rest of us.

What moms need

All the ways in which moms and being a mom are more is something to honor but not necessarily to celebrate. Too often, moms are more because they have to be. Too often, motherhood is more because other adults in a mom's life aren't equal partners in the work of raising children or taking care of the home.

For moms to be more, they need partners equally committed to raising and nurturing the family. They need a culture and policies that value family and motherhood. They need adequate support and encouragement to rise to the challenge of creating, bearing, carrying, birthing, raising, nurturing, developing, maturing and walking alongside children into their adulthood.

We need more moms—in our individual lives and our shared lives. We need more nurture, more care, more toughness, more creativity, more

survivability, more faith, more godliness—all those things my Facebook respondents wanted us to know and remember about their moms.

We need this in our homes, our schools, our offices, our institutions, our government, our churches. And moms need more from us in all those places.

Rising to our responsibility

For the rest of us: Not being a mom isn't less. There are all kinds of reasons a person isn't a mom—within or beyond a person's or a family's control. No, not being a mom isn't less. It's different, but not less. For those of us who aren't moms for whatever reason, we have our own “more” to rise to.

So, let us accept our responsibility and rise to the task, so when our moms are more, it's something to celebrate, not just honor.

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Editorial: Ten Commandments bills' unintended consequences

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Undoubtedly, the Ten Commandments are important. So, how, when and where they are displayed ought to be done with the utmost care.

Editorial: A few days on, does Easter still matter?

June 26, 2025

A couple turning points happened recently. One affects a few people. The other affects the whole world. What difference does it make?

Editorial: Doing good when we disagree on the definition

June 26, 2025

Christians really do want to do what is good, and we really do disagree mightily over just what is good. There are plenty of examples.

Editorial: Jesus Christ:

Conquering warrior or crucified lamb?

June 26, 2025

Against the politics of our day, amid the temptation to win the world, as we approach Easter, we need to remember who Jesus is.