

# **Voices: The art of the congregational deal**

October 4, 2016

Our best chance of healing the national discourse is first healing our local conversations. By working on how we negotiate our own congregational dialogue, we can begin to shape a new conversation that is more civil than what we see on CNN.

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# **Voices: Four reasons I became a Baptist**

October 4, 2016

Baptists have much to offer both the church as a whole and the world. If we remember where we came from, we will continue to reach a world in desperate need of what we have to offer.

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# **Voices: You need church**

October 4, 2016

Being a part of a church is not easy, but it is essential. We cannot love Jesus and not love his church.

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# **Voices: Deconstructing our ‘us vs. them’ mindset**

October 4, 2016

The Roman army officer whose servant Jesus healed demonstrates the kind of inclusive humility needed to break down barriers between “us” and “them.”

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# **Voices: Place ethics ahead of political considerations**

October 4, 2016

A trio of biblical themes—hope, cross and community—provide a lens through which a Christian may examine political candidates and policies and make moral choices.

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# **Voices: An appeal for honesty in church**

October 4, 2016

Our churches must be places where we can be honest with one another, where we can say we are bruised and our faith is faintly burning. ... We all need the healing power of honest community.

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# **Voices: So your life is being sifted—how Christlike**

October 4, 2016

Just as Jesus' desert temptations shaped his ministry, the shifting and changing and sorting that occurs in our lives provides opportunities for finding what God has prepared for us.

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# **Voices: Why we do boring things**

October 4, 2016

I hope what I learn while serving on a board helps me be a better dad by

helping me encourage my children to grow outside of themselves and their immediate surroundings, making good decisions that will affect people far from them in space and time.

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## **Texas Baptist Voices: God remains close to those searching for home**

October 4, 2016

It is in wandering that the people of God became the people of God, and it is all those seeking a new home whom the people of God must reach out to today.

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## **Voices: Taking back our selves from our soul-stealing (de)vices**

October 4, 2016

If phone screens and computer terminals are negatively affecting our God-given ability and call to connect with other human beings in a God-honoring way, then we need to unplug, Pastor Eric Black says in “Texas Baptist Voices.”

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# **Texas Baptist Voices: Salvation is membership**

October 4, 2016

What if my salvation is not just about me? What if God's plan all along has been through Christ to restore and heal and make whole our oneness with God, with each other and with all of creation?