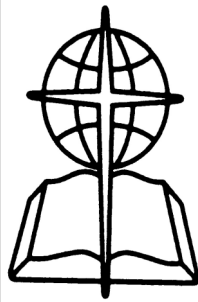


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Thursday, May 11, 2017
 Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
"I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along."
 2 Cor. 11: 28b
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Lessons in Cooperation

Cooperation is best gotten when people know how much you love them and seek their best interests. People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Southern Baptist and Bibb Baptist value cooperation and the concept of partnership. Paul believed in and worked from the principle of the Church being the body of Christ. Christ is the Head and we who make up the universal Church are the body. The body works best when it is guided by the head and in cooperation with the rest of the body. We can discover some principles in being in cooperation with the rest of the body from Paul's writings under the guidance of God's Spirit. Consider the following values.

1. Ask the Lord to give you a special passion, love and concern for others and their needs. Paul writes, "Love sincerely. Hate evil. Hold on to what is good. Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other." (Rom. 12:9-10)
2. Favorably regard people you are trying to relate to and avoid arguments. Paul writes, "Welcome people who are weak in faith, but don't get into an argument over differences of opinion." (Rom. 14:1)
3. Remember how freely Christ accepts you and freely accept others in the same spirit. Paul writes, "Therefore, accept each other in the same way that Christ accepted you. He did this to bring glory to God." (Rom. 15:7)
4. Affirm people's positive character qualities. Paul writes, "I'm convinced, brothers and sisters, that you, too, are filled with goodness. I'm also convinced that you have all the knowledge you need and that you are able to instruct each other." (Rom. 15:14)
5. Ask the Lord in private and public prayers to give you a spirit of unity as you work together for Christ's purpose. Paul writes, "May God, who gives you this endurance and encouragement, allow you to live in harmony with each other by following the example of Christ Jesus. ⁶ Then, having the same goal, you will praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom. 15:5-6)
6. Try to ignore and stay away from people who habitually stir up trouble in the ranks. Paul writes, "Brothers and sisters, I urge you to watch out for those people who create divisions and who make others fall away from the Christian faith by teaching doctrine that is not the same as you have learned. Stay away from them. ¹⁸ People like these are not serving Christ our Lord. They are serving their own desires. By their smooth talk and flattering words they deceive unsuspecting people." (Rom. 16:17-18)
7. Apply Paul, the apostle's, formula for successful cooperation. Paul writes, "Then fill me with joy by having the same attitude and the same love, living in harmony, and keeping one purpose in mind." (Phil. 2:2)
8. Recognize that Christians are on the same team and the real enemy is the devil along with sinful human nature. Paul writes, "This is not a wrestling match against a human opponent. We are wrestling with rulers, authorities, the powers who govern this world of darkness, and spiritual forces that control evil in the heavenly world." (Eph. 6: 12)
9. Ask the Lord to increase your love in quality and quantity for others. Paul writes, "I pray that your love will keep on growing because of your knowledge and insight." (Phil. 1:9)
10. Learn how to speak with decorum, tact and graciousness to every person. Paul writes, "Instead, as we lovingly speak the truth, we will grow up completely in our relationship to Christ, who is the head." (Eph. 4:15)
11. Show how much you have need for and appreciate one another. Paul writes, "He makes the whole body fit together and unites it through the support of every joint. As each and every part does its job, he makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." (Eph. 4:15, 16)
12. Remember we need each other. Paul writes, "An eye can't say to a hand, 'I don't need you!' Or again, the head can't say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'" God's purpose was that the body should not be divided but rather that all of its parts should feel the same concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts share its suffering. If one part is praised, all the others share in its happiness." (I Cor. 12:21, 25-26)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 9—Church Insurance Conference @ SBOM, Montgomery 10 am—3 pm
- May 13— 3rd Annual Cruise-In @ Four Points Baptist from 9 am — 1 pm— Free
- May 14— Happy Mother's Day
- May 17— BCUCM @ 9 am @ Association Office
- May 18— Association Leadership Conference @ Eastmont Baptist Church, Montgomery
- May 22— West Blocton High School Senior Graduation @ 7 pm
- May 23— Bibb County High School Senior Graduation @ 7 pm
- May 25— Cahawba Christian Senior Graduation
- May 25— Last day of School for Students
- May 29— Memorial Day, Office Closed

VBS DATES



Lowerytown— June 5-9th from 6pm-8:30
 June 11—Commencement @ 6pm

Six Mile— June 21-23 from 5:30pm—8

Centreville—June 19-22 from 9am—noon

Four Points—June 19-23 from 6pm— 8

Church Contributions

	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u>
Antioch	101.95	891.10
Ashby	510.56	3,563.81
Bethel	1 00.00	800.00
Bethlehem	99.54	937.82
Bibbville	179.60	1,556.68
Blocton Third	50.00	300.00
Brent	910.16	5,441.63
Cahaba Valley		
Calvary	150.00	300.00
Camp Branch		
Centreville	974.54	8,852.51
Community		264.76
Enon		
Eoline		180.00
Faith		70.00
FBC Woodstock	883.15	3,600.00
Four Points	450.00	3,600.00
Haysop	515.40	1,781.67
Johntown	226.70	1,728.28
Lowerytown	663.46	1,694.58
Lucile	127.00	1,237..00
Marvel		
Mt. Carmel		
Mt. Moriah	160.60	683.83
Mt. Zion		
New Hebron	259.60	2,047.46
Old Union	100.00	250.00
Pineview	1,080.00	4105.00
Pondville		2,200.50
Randolph	889.98	6,442.38
Rehobeth	163.47	664.83
Schultz Creek	635.36	4,482.17
Shady Grove		1,800.00
Shady Grove 2		
Six Mile	286.05	2,533.51
Smith Hill	75.00	600.00
Thomas Mill	186.42	1,467.57
West Blocton 1st	300.00	600.00
Anonymous	120.00	970.00
Totals	\$10,198.54	\$70,055.84
ALSBOM	524.51	3,872.12
Other Donations		694.00