



Why I Believe Saddleback Should Be Reinstated to the SBC

<https://www.youtube.com/@JustinPetersMin>

Justin Peters (M.Div., Th.M. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, TX) is an evangelist, teacher, author and radio host committed to expositional preaching and equipping believers to biblically engage false doctrine. He has preached in 42 states and 23 countries. Justin and his wife, Kathy, reside in Sandpoint, Idaho.



Welcome to the program ladies and gentlemen. My name is Justin Peters. I hope that this finds you and your family doing well today. I want to thank you so much for joining me for this podcast. No the title is not click bait. No I have not lost my theological mind, nor am I out of my gourd. **I actually believe that Saddleback Church should be reinstated and should be voted back in to the SBC at its annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.**

Now for those of you who may not be aware I'm sure most of you are Saddleback Church was disfellowshipped from the SBC by its executive committee earlier this year. Why? Well it goes back to May of 2021, when Saddleback made a lot of news by ordaining three women as pastors in its church. Saddleback is one of the largest churches in the SBC and here in the article it says "*Yesterday was a historic night for Saddleback Church in many ways*" The Southern California mega church's Facebook page announced that they had ordained their first three women pastors: Liz Puffer, Cynthia Petty, and Katie Edwards. You can see in this photo the three ladies kneeling down, being ordained as pastors, and Rick Warren is giving not only his approval, but this was done at his behest. This was done under his leadership because three years earlier he changed his theology from complementarianism to egalitarianism

Rick Warren put out a video where he says he's *neither* complementary nor egalitarian. But that's a farce. Rick Warren now believes women can and should serve as pastors in a church - and there's no distinction by saying there are "pastors" and there's a "senior pastor." You will not find the term senior pastor in the Bible. There are just pastors, elders, and overseers/bishops - depending upon which translation you use. Those 3 titles are used interchangeably. In other words, a pastor is an elder, an elder is a pastor, an elder is a bishop, and a bishop is a pastor. You won't find anything like *senior pastor*. Rick Warren now believes women can serve as pastors and led his church to ordain three women as pastors so he's he is an egalitarian- make no mistake about it.

Later in the same article it says that Kay Warren, wife of Rick Warren, preached at Saddleback's Mother's Day services, while speaker and author Anne Graham Lotz preached at Second Baptist Church in Houston. You will not want to miss Anne Graham Lotz, who is "*the best preacher her dad Billy Graham ever heard.*" Ed Young, former SBC president and pastor of Second Baptist said this in an online invitation to the congregation.

So here you have women - Kay Warren and Anne Graham Lotz- preaching at Southern Baptist churches. The argument is "Well it's okay *once in a while* for a woman to preach in church because after all this is Mother's Day." Well, NO dear friends, *it's not* "Mother's Day", it's the Lord's Day. In every church, service must be vertically oriented it is about God, not about us. I've often wished one Mother's Day, which is always on Sunday of course, I would love to go into a church and instead of hearing "Happy Mother's Day" I'd love to hear someone say "Happy Lord's Day" because that's what it is it - the Lord's Day - but I digress.

To have a woman preach when the local church has gathered together for worship is a clear violation of scripture, and Saddleback Church was disfellowshipped because of that very reason and because the Southern Baptist convention has always held since its Inception that only men are permitted biblically to serve as pastors, elders, or bishops and only men can preach. For a woman to preach at least when the local body has gathered together for corporate worship with men and women present - for a woman to fill the pulpit and preach, that is a very clear violation of scripture. So the Executive Committee of the SBC disfellowshipped Saddleback Church.

A little further down in the same article it says that Bible teacher Beth Moore (who recently announced she no longer identifies as a Southern Baptist) preached on Sunday at Lake Point Church in Rockwall, That SBC congregation draws more than 12,000 in attendance. **So in this one article you've got three of the largest churches in the Southern Baptist Convention all having women preach** on Mother's Day Sunday, which as I said, is the Lord's day it's not Mother's Day - not when it comes to church. So that brings me to why I believe Saddleback Church should be reinstated in the SBC.

If you are going, and I say this in reference to you Messengers who will be at the convention coming up in about three weeks - if you're going to disfellowship Saddleback Church for ordaining three women as pastors then you're also going to have to disfellowship Second Baptist Church in Houston, because they have women preaching on Sunday morning from time to time. **You can't separate the function from the office of pastor. Having a woman preach in corporate worship on a Sunday morning is as much a violation of scripture as is having a woman ordained as a pastor**

So, you're going to have to disfellowship Second Baptist Church Houston one of the largest churches in the SBC, AND you're going to have to disfellowship Lake Point Church in Rockwall Texas with an attendance of about 12,000. You're also going to have to disfellowship Elevation Church in North Carolina pastored by Steven Furtick. When you go to their website as I did ..under leadership it says "*Meet the lead pastors*" plural - Meet the lead pastors who set the vision of Elevation Church. So I clicked to learn more and it takes you their leadership: Pastor Steven and Holly Furtick.

These only two leaders listed on the church's website. I was kind of surprised at that. I figured a church that massive would have many many pastors, but these are the only two pastors listed here. Now you may be thinking "It just says Pastor Steven, and doesn't call Holly Furtick a pastor. Well, there are two more links you can go to then personal websites: stevenfurtick.com and hollyfurtick.com. It's misleading at best but I went to their YouTube channel with 2.61 million subscribers - that is huge! That is huge. Elevation Church, mainly because of its music, is reaching unfortunately millions upon millions of people. That is a massive number of subscribers to a church's YouTube channel. I don't think I've ever seen a church that has more subscribers than Elevation Church. I may be wrong but I'm not aware of it. At any rate, the point is Elevation Church's reach is massive. Now, a recent sermon posted is *SUDDEN STRENGTH*. It was preached by "Pastor" Holly Furtick ... so Holly Furtick is a pastor. So here is another massive SBC Church with a female serving as a pastor.

But not only are you going to have to disfellowship these churches, you're going to have to disfellowship a lot of churches too. Let me show you this article this was recently posted. The title is: "Rick Warren outlines five reasons Saddleback will challenge its expulsion from the SBC". Go down into the body where Rick Warren is quoted saying "*We're challenging the ruling on behalf of over 300 concerned pastors who have written to me who have female pastors serving on their staffs.*"

Dear friends, these are SBC churches. They saw that Saddleback was disfellowship by the Executive Committee because they ordained three women as pastors. Since that happened earlier this year, Rick Warren has received letters from over 300 other SBC pastors who also have females serving as pastors, maybe not as the senior pastor, but again that's a distinction without a difference. There is no such thing as a senior pastor in the Bible. But they wrote to him, worried that they would also be disfellowshipped.

So friends this is not just a handful of the larger churches in the SBC who have female pastors or have women preach on a Sunday morning. You've got hundreds. In fact a bit later in the article Rick Warren says "*I've seen one list with over 1200 names of Baptist women pastoring in just Texas Baptist convention churches.*" if it's true that over 1200 female are serving as pastors just in the state of Texas, well Houston we have a problem! There is no telling how many churches in the SBC have women serving as pastors so you got quite the pickle there.

So, if you are a messenger going to the annual meeting coming up in New Orleans you're in a pickle because if you're planning to vote to disfellowship Saddleback Church, then to be logically consistent you're also going to have to vote to disfellowship all of these other hundreds, if not thousands, of churches in the SBC that also have women pastors.

You're going to have to disfellowship them too to be logically consistent. And, I would think, to maintain your personal Integrity in character you've got to disfellowship all of these other churches *as well*. You've got to bring some motion to the floor for the messengers to vote on that EVERY church that has females serving as pastors, regardless of whether or not they're the senior pasto, they must be disfellowshipped too.

I'll be honest I don't think there's a snowball's chance in ou know where, that *that's* going to happen! But it should happen because that's the only way to be logically consistent and to maintain integrity.

Dear friends you cannot vote to disfellowship Saddleback, and NOT vote to disfellowship all these others because that's using "**differing weights and measures**" and God frowns upon using "**differing weights and measures**", to put it lightly. Proverbs 20:10 says "*Unequal weights and unequal measures are both **an abomination to the Lord.***" (ESV)

Dear friends you can't have differing weights and measures. You cannot judge one church and hold that church to a different standard than you do all the other churches. So if you're a messenger going to the annual meeting of the SBC and you're thinking "I'm going to vote Saddleback Church out of the SBC" let me challenge you on that: **I don't see how you can unless you're willing to vote ALL of these other churches out too.**

I'll throw another wrinkle in here: if you're going to vote out Saddleback Church then you're also going to have to vote out First Baptist Church Orlando, Florida - not for women pastors, at least I don't think so. But you're going to have to vote out First Baptist Church Orlando because they baptize open homosexuals. Now I've done several videos on this I will put links below so you can watch it for yourself. Joe Mills is an open homosexual. Here are pictures of him at his wedding "*getting married*" (quote unquote) to a man. Joe Mills is a member of First Baptist Church Orlando who was recently baptized there. Here's a picture of his baptism with the senior associate pastor of First Baptist Orlando. The man in the back is Chris Bacon, also one of the pastors at First Baptist. They baptized Joe Mills knowing completely that he is an open homosexual married to a man. Not only did they baptize him but they also allowed him to baptize other people in their baptistry. That's the next picture. You see Joe Mills baptizing this woman in the baptistry of First Baptist Church Orlando. Now I wish no ill on Joe Mills at all. In fact I feel sorry for him that First Baptist has not cared for him in a Biblical way and told him that he is outside of Christ. He cannot possibly be a Christian according to First Corinthians chapter six, but there is freedom found in the gospel if he will truly repent of sin, which obviously he has not. But if he truly repent of sin and places faith in Christ he can indeed be made new, as his shirt ironically says- because at least at this point he has *not* been made new. If he had been made new, he would not be homosexual.

So messengers I don't know what to tell you. You're in a pickle again. To maintain *logical consistency* and to *maintain personal integrity and character*, AND to not *violate the scripture that tells us to not judge with differing weights and measures* (which is an abomination to Yahweh) you cannot **vote to disfellowship Saddleback and NOT all these others**. And, quite frankly, I just I don't see that happening. I don't see all of these other hundreds, if not thousands, of churches being disfellowshipped!

So for all of you who are messengers going to the convention with your well-intrenched complementarian theology and you *can't wait* to raise your little yellow placard to vote to disfellowship Saddleback... hold on... IF you do that, then you're going you're have to vote to disfellowship all of these other churches too. And that is just not going to happen. To have Integrity in this issue, and to avoid sinning against God, and to avoid going afoul of Proverbs 20:10 and also Proverbs 20:23 - by judging one church and not another, or holding just one church to a standard that you're unwilling to hold *EVERY other church* to the same standard - **then you're going to have to vote to reinstate Saddleback Church into the SBC**. Thank you, dear ones, very much for joining me. Until our next time together may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God and the fellowship of his Holy Spirit be with you all.