

## **WHY I LEFT THE INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST MOVEMENT & WHY I NO LONGER CALL MYSELF A INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTALISTS.**

1. Elevation of IFB culture, traditions, and preferences to a level equal with Biblical doctrine and commands (Matt. 15:9).

Tradition, culture, and pastoral opinion are frequently taught as God given commands (Deut. 18:20) from pulpits. These non-Biblical standards are then used to attack and criticize others with different views (Rom. 14:3-6) and are commonly forced on other believers.

IFB churches frequently forsake the historic Baptist distinctive of Individual Soul Liberty. Outward compliance with the church's culture and/or pastor's preferences is often mandated. Church members are not allowed to publicly show differing beliefs or preferences. Pressure and intimidation are used to coerce compliance. A Christian's liberty in Christ is thus violated by the preferences of those around him (1 Cor. 10:29).

2. Elevation of secondary and tertiary issues (clothing, music etc.) to a place of primary importance to the point of attacking and separating from other Christians based on these disagreements (Rom. 14:10-13).

An unbiblical view and standard of separation are commonly taught. Other Christians who hold to the same fundamentals of the faith as IFB churches are never fellowshiped with and are avoided (1 Cor. 3:3-4). Routine bashing, attacking, and ridiculing of other denominations and groups of Christians from pulpits (James 4:1-2, John 13:35).

3. Un-Biblical church ecclesiology and leadership organization. Scripture teaches a plurality of elders (Acts 20:17, Phil. 1:1 James 5:14), yet almost all IFB churches have a single all-powerful man who rules the church in a top-down system with little to no accountability to his congregation.

The Biblical model includes deacons in the church structure, yet they are often missing entirely or merely used as a rubber stamp committee for the senior pastor's decrees. Most IFB church leadership structures are more Catholic (episcopal) in style than historic Baptist (congregational).

Elevation and glorification of pastors and those in full time ministry to an unhealthy and unbiblical level (1 Pet. 5:3). The doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer is frequently trampled on in this environment. Lay people are told they must have their pastor's approval or "advice" before making big decisions, ignoring the fact that the Spirit can lead each Christian individually.

4. Cover ups and sexual abuse in IFB churches and organizations across the country. Rampant scandal for decades with a strong culture of secrets and silence. A denomination known for the sexual sins of its leaders. The Church is to be a bastion of light and truth, yet the IFB movement has a sordid history of coverups, hiding of evidence, and outright ignoring the sins of its members. Few if any calls for repentance (1 Pet. 4:17) whereas defending abusers and predators is historically common (Eph. 5:3). Little to no accountability for pastors who disqualify themselves from the ministry. Shame and blame placed on victims instead of perpetrators.

5. Lack of strong doctrinal teaching from the pulpits (2 Tim. 2:2, 4:1-2). Frequent preaching of the Bible out of context and twisting of Scripture to make a good message. Consequently, the average member of an IFB church has a shallow and anemic understanding of good doctrine, the fundamentals of the faith, and at times even the Gospel itself.

6. Frequent mixing of politics and Christianity (John 18:36). Many IFB are more American than Christian. America and some politicians (Trump) are sometimes elevated to nearly idolatrous positions. This is bringing the world into the Church on a grand scale.

7. Church cultures of performance-based Christianity. "The more you do, the better you are." Acceptance and value are gained by the amount of work one performs for God and by keeping checklists of Do's and Don'ts (Gal. 5:1-6).

Sanctification is taught as being a result of our hard work rather than the work of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 3:3). The Gospel is taught as being only needed for salvation, rather than being needed for our daily walk with God.

8. Church cultures that are harshly critical and judgmental of others (Gal. 5:15, James 4:11). Pharisaical attitudes abound. This leads to church cultures that discourage vulnerability and transparency among the brethren. Rather an atmosphere of “Everything is great!” prevails. Common measuring of others’ spirituality (John 7:24) based on external factors (wearing a dress or suit, no tattoos, etc) leading to pride, arrogance, and a dismissive attitude towards those with “lower” standards (2 Cor. 10:12).

9. Easy believism. Shallow, inadequate, and often incomplete presentations of the Gospel to lost souls. Emotionally manipulative and pressure filled presentations of the Gospel when evangelizing. This leads to large numbers of supposed professions of faith, while very few “converts” actually show life change and fruit.

10. Emotionally manipulative and dishonest invitations. High pressure altar calls. Deceptive means used to get people to come forward (1 Cor. 2:1-5). Emotionally manipulative and insulting preaching to teens in the name of “hard preaching” during youth conferences (Matt. 18:6).

11. A culture and teaching that promotes the denigration and disrespect of women. Women’s value is taught as being connected to the quality of a man they marry (PASTOR’S wife, MISSIONARY’S wife etc.) rather than in being an image bearer of God. Bible teaching and theology geared specifically towards women is miserably anemic and consists almost entirely of housekeeping and husband pleasing. Women are held to unequal and often unbiblical standards when it comes to modesty and are commonly blamed for the sexual sins of men.

12. The wrong view of The Gospel and Believers Baptism and the failure of not being applied to all nations but is limited to a particular race (the white race) that the majority of the IFB Churches but not all of them would only witness to and baptize this contradicts (Matthew 28:19-20).

13. The use and misuse of The King James Bible by trying to make it the golden standard and superior to all other translations before and after its making. The false view is saying that the King James is the only perfect Word of God that the English speaking people and the rest of the entire world should use only. The translators of the KJV would strongly disagree because they said themselves that it wasn’t perfect and would need to be improve upon later. This entire view violates (2 Timothy 3:16) & (Psalm 12:6-7)