



Middleburg Memos

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The BF&M reminds us that Christian unity is “_____ and _____ for common ends by various groups of Christ’s people.”

Cooperation is not merely an _____ idea conceived in the modern _____ world. Our cooperation as Baptists is grounded in the fact that we share a common _____ and are called to common _____ that can best be accomplished by _____.

For Southern Baptists cooperation means global _____ work with others who share our _____, _____, and biblical _____.

Consider the following passages on cooperation:

_____ (Rebuilding the wall)

_____ (Helping someone come to Jesus)

_____ (Meeting needs together)

We believe that the primary biblical understanding of the church is a local body of _____ that is responsible to _____. Yet we understand that just as Christians are not merely individual believers, _____ from the body of Christ, individual churches are called to cooperate with other congregations for gospel purposes.

This does not imply that cooperation is established through _____ that can _____ the local church or lay claim on its ministry.

_____ : The belief that a local body of believers is directly responsible to God’s _____, not to church _____.

_____ : The _____, cooperative effort of churches with _____ to minister _____ in ways they could not minister _____.

KEY TRUTH: Cooperation is always _____, never _____.

Local associations and state conventions are “voluntary and advisory bodies” rather than _____ structures. At the same time, these Baptist bodies are assigned specific responsibilities “to _____, _____, and _____ the energies of our people in the most effective manner”—a statement taken directly from the formation of the Southern Baptist Convention (1845).

The BF&M reminds us that cooperation is desirable between various Christian _____ but only “when the end to be attained is itself _____, and when such cooperation involves no violation of _____ or compromise of _____ to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.”

The SBC, as a denomination, does not join with churches and other denominations that do not _____ and _____ the gospel of Jesus Christ or that do not _____ the _____ as the Word of God.

Since 1925, Southern Baptists have worked together through the _____, the central funding plan for our _____.

The Cooperative Program is one of the most _____ and _____ funding mechanisms in the history of organized Christian work, allowing local Baptist congregations of _____ to unite in a single, _____ budget for advancing the _____ of _____.

Cross-References: Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18