

NON-NEGOTIABLES

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

NON-NEGOTIABLES

Dictionary:

“the price of a good or security which is firmly established and cannot be adjusted”

“a good or security whose ownership is not easily transferable from one party to another”

NON-NEGOTIABLES

“A theological position or a Biblical command that is a guiding, firm, indispensable component to the identity of a group of believers”

- Constitute MCBC’s working philosophy of ministry – in combination they establish the framework in which our ministry functions.
- Distinct from Church Doctrinal Statement (Constitution) and Church Covenant

NON-NEGOTIABLES

Define our ministry

Guide decisions:

- What our ministry does
- What our ministry chooses not to do
- Proportion of attention given to various aspects of ministry
- Goals for which we strive

NON-NEGOTIABLES

- Not individually unique to us
- Good ministries differ on the proportion in which each are measured out
- We continually strive to implement - represents Biblical points we desire for our ministry to hit

NON-NEGOTIABLES #1

#1 We believe that the Head of the church is Christ and that the purpose of our meeting together is to know Him

(Mt. 16:18; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15)

(Phil. 3:8-10; Acts 2:42-47)

NON-NEGOTIABLES #1

- 7 NT passages refer to Jesus Christ as Head
- Teach that Jesus Christ is the Head of:

Every man 1 Corinthians 11:3

Over all things Ephesians 1:21

Of the church Ephesians 5:23

NON-NEGOTIABLES #1

- *Eph. 1:22-23* And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Minnick – “for the benefit of the church” . . . “the church can take confidence that there is no other authority greater than Christ” (Col 2:10)

NON-NEGOTIABLES #1

Eph. 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

Antidote for Errors in Doctrine or Practice

Example in Col 2:16-19 “holding fast to the head” vs “fleshly mind”

NON-NEGOTIABLES #1

How does a Church know it is holding to the Head of the church (Christ)?

First Example of a post-risen Christ decision –

Acts 1:15-16 “the scripture”

Paul’s Exhortation I Cor 2:12-13 & 16

*“Now we have received ...the Spirit who is from God. . .
But we have the mind of Christ.”*

Decisions based on scripture are the mind of Christ

NON-NEGOTIABLES

What if an issue is not directly addressed by scripture?

Acts 15 (Issue of Circumcision)

6) “The apostles and elders came together to look into this matter”

22) “Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church”

NON-NEGOTIABLES #2

#2 We believe in the plurality of godly leadership (*Acts 14:23; 20:17; Phil. 1:1*)

Acts 14:23 When they had appointed elders for them in every church . . . they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Phil 1:1 Paul . . . To all the saints . . . including the overseers and deacons

NON-NEGOTIABLES #2

Elders' Function –

Bishop, overseer, shepherd, pastor, elder

Distinctions among Elders –

-All rule but some also labor in the Word

-There are leaders among leaders

(i.e. Timothy at Ephesus, Titus at Crete)

Can you see the wisdom in multiple leaders?

NON-NEGOTIABLES #2

Church Rule: Is our church run by elders?

Our polity is congregational: ultimate decision-making rests with the people

Examples:

- *Acts 6:3 congregation chose 1st deacons*
- *Acts 6 - people evaluate recommendation of elders for scriptural consistency, unanimity, and wisdom*

NON-NEGOTIABLES #3

#3 We believe that the main focus of the church service should be the Word of God through pastoral preaching

(1 Tim. 4:13-16; 5:17; 2 Tim. 4:2)*

**"Give attention . . . Do not neglect . . . Take pains . . . Be absorbed . . . Pay close attention . . . Persevere"*

Even the design of the worship space communicates the service's main focus (altar, icons, stage, etc.)

NON-NEGOTIABLES #3

Pastoral Preaching??

Focuses on declaring the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42) so that the body grows and functions according to its Divinely-designed end (Eph. 4:16)

Does not have an exclusive evangelistic emphasis geared toward those who are not part of the church.

NON-NEGOTIABLES #3

When gathered for a church service:

- Foremost purpose is to hear from God through His Word

1 Peter 4:10-11 "As each one has received a special gift . . . Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God"

- Primary goal is to understand the Bible better, and come to know God more fully through His Word

NON-NEGOTIABLES #4

#4 We believe in reverent worship

John 4:23 - 24 “. . . the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Heb 12:28 “. . . let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe”

NON-NEGOTIABLES #4

MCBC services have specific purposes

Sunday morning: *elevated, not formal - an atmosphere that will cause even lost people to sense God's presence and be convicted and worship Him (1 Cor. 14:24-25*)*

Sunday evening: *more spontaneous, without slipping into an inappropriate casualness*

Wednesday evening: *typically involve greater congregational participation and concentrate on prayer*

NON-NEGOTIABLES #4

Elevated Service (1 Cor. 14:23-25)

23 Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?

24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all;

25 the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.

NON-NEGOTIABLES #5

#5 We believe in systematic community evangelism (Acts 20:20-21, 25-27)

- *18) “You yourselves know . . . 20) how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21) solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- *MCBC Two-mile radius evangelism plan*

NON-NEGOTIABLES #6

#6 We believe in every-member ministry and accountability

- *Heb 10: 25 “not forsaking our own assembling together”*
- *Ephesians 4:16 “from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love“*

NON-NEGOTIABLES #7

#7 We believe in a simplicity of Christian lifestyle

1 Cor 7:30-31 “. . . those who buy, as though they did not possess; those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for . . . world is passing away.”

2 Cor 1:12 “. . .not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world . . .”

2 Tim 2:4 “No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please. . . “

NON-NEGOTIABLES #8

#8 We believe that the people's needs should determine the ministry programs rather than using programs to build the ministry.

NON-NEGOTIABLES #9

#9 We believe in financial faith and faithfulness

- Examples: Church Budget
Past Building Projects
- *2 Cor. 9:6-8 “ . . . he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed”*

NON-NEGOTIABLES #10

**#10 We believe in the need to practice
Scriptural separation**

WHY?

NON-NEGOTIABLES #10

WHY? – To avoid conformity to the world

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect

NON-NEGOTIABLES #10

WHY? – To avoid conformity to the world

2 Cor 6: 14 – 16 *Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have **righteousness** and **lawlessness**, or what fellowship has **light** with **darkness**? Or what harmony has **Christ** with **Belial**, or what has a **believer** in common with an **unbeliever**? Or what agreement has the **temple of God** with **idols**? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. Therefore, **COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,**" says the Lord.*

NON-NEGOTIABLES #10

WHY? – To mark & avoid false teachers

2 John 10 – 11 *If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.*

NON-NEGOTIABLES #10

WHY? – To admonish & keep no company with disobedient brethren

2 Thes 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

NON-NEGOTIABLES #11

#11 We believe that we should have respect for the authority of civil government

HOW?

NON-NEGOTIABLES #11

HOW? –

Paying Taxes: *Matt 22:21 “... Then He said to them, ‘Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's.’”*

Praying for Leaders: *1 Tim 2:1-2 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.*

NON-NEGOTIABLES #11

HOW? –

Honoring Authorities: *1 Peter 2:17 “. . . fear God, honor the king”*

Submitting to Laws: *1 Peter 2:13-15 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.*

EVALUATION OF NON-NEGOTIABLES

- Do they commend themselves as biblical?
- To what degree do I see these on display within the ministry?
- Can I assent to them?
- Can I without reservation help my church strive to attain them?