

# What Southern Baptists Believe

An overview of *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000*

Session 18: Article XIV – Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

I. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_ and cooperation

III. \_\_\_\_\_ Cooperation

IV. \_\_\_\_\_ of Cooperation

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

V. Cooperation rooted in \_\_\_\_\_

VI. \_\_\_\_\_ cooperation

VII. \_\_\_\_\_ to cooperation

*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*

## Questions for Consideration:

1. How do you personally cooperate with others for the advance of the gospel?
2. Has your understanding of Baptist cooperation grown during this class? What questions do you still have?
3. What ways do you understand that SHBC cooperates with other churches for kingdom work?

Southern Baptists are a convention of autonomous, like-minded churches voluntarily partnering for ministry and mission.