

## SEVEN DEADLY STATEMENTS OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Words have meaning. And if church members start articulating words consistently, those words begin to reflect the priorities and passions of the church. Statements church members make that can move a church toward Great Commission and Great Commandment greatness. But there are some sentences that can prove harmful, even deadly, to a congregation. Here are seven of the most deadly statements:

1. **“I like our church just the way it is.”** When you begin to hear this statement expressed among church members, you can be certain there is no Great Commission heartbeat. We should never want our church to stay just like it is; we should be constantly seeking to reach new people with the gospel.
2. **“My pastor doesn’t visit me enough.”** There are so many things wrong with this statement. It reflects a ministry where there is expectation that the pastor is to do most of the ministry, instead of equipping others to do the work of ministry. It also reflects a dependence and self-centered ministry on the part of church members.
3. **“I always vote ‘no’ just to keep the leadership in check.”** This person is the disrupter I described in an earlier post. He or she really wants the focus on self. Attention seeking and self-focus are characteristics of this person. They are toxic to churches.
4. **“I just can’t worship with our style of music.”** The worship wars aren’t over. These church members could never be missionaries because their indigenous people group probably wouldn’t be singing hymns from the hymnals. There is no sense of worship with these church members; they are all about their own preferences and desires.
5. **“People know where our church is if they want to come.”** This statement reflects deadly ecclesiology and deadly missiology. It assumes that the church is a place; and it assumes that the Great Commission is, “Y’all come.”
6. **“I love you pastor, but . . .”** This statement reflects a church member who is both deceitful and deadly. He or she tells leaders they love them, but puts a metaphorical knife in their backs at the first opportunity. These members tear churches apart.
7. **“I pay my tithes here, so I deserve . . .”** This church member sees their offerings as conditional. So, in a real sense, they aren’t offerings as much as they are country club dues. They will continue to pay their way as long as they get their way.

Most church members do not make these statements nor do they reflect these attitudes. But healthier church members should and must speak up when they hear other members making such destructive statements. Otherwise, the naysayers, critics, and bullies will have their way in the church. And the church will soon cease being the church.

## Welcome to First Baptist Brookline!

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**Wi-Fi Password for Your Mobile Devices**

**IloveJesus**

CAPITAL "I" lowercase "L" "zero" lowercase "ve" CAPITAL "J" lowercase "esus"

September 24, 2017

### WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY?

Sonshine Manor Nursing Home Ministry 1 PM

Finance Committee Meeting 5:30 PM

RA, GA, & Mission Friends 6 PM

Evening Worship Tonight 6 PM

### Upcoming Activities

AWANA September 27, 6:25 PM ***Silly Socks Night!***

Carl Hancock Speaking September 27, 7 PM

Ron Melton Speaking October 1, 10:15 AM

Deacons Meet October 1, 5 PM

Tony Fraley Missionary to New York Speaking October 1, 6 PM

Darren Trader Speaking October 4, 7 PM

Men's Breakfast October 7, 8 AM

Lord's Supper Observed October 8 in Morning Worship

Larry DeLawder Concert October 8, 6 PM

Baptist Women Meet October 10, 10 AM

## God's love is worth sharing.



### September 17

Offering	\$4.004
Pregnancy Care	\$ 117

### Attendance

Sunday School	84
Morning Worship	125

### See You at the Pole



**FIX OUR EYES**

*Hebrews 12:2*

**Wednesday September 27, 7 AM**

All around the globe, in every time zone, students will be gathering at their flagpoles, praying for their school, friends, families, churches, and communities.

SEE YOU AT THE POLE is a day committed to global unity in Christ and prayer for your generation.

The Baptist Home Ladies Auxiliary is having a garage sale Friday and Saturday, October 13 & 14. Set-up day is Thursday, October 12. Your participation in this endeavor is greatly appreciated. The monies raised will benefit our brothers and sisters in Christ who are loved, nurtured, and cared for at the Baptist Home.



**Dresses for Samaritan's Purse  
are due at the end of October**

### **Upcoming Concerts**

**Brian Free & Assurance**  
October 20, 7 PM

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For Calvary

November 12, 6 PM

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Soul'd Out Quartet  
November 19, 6 PM