

From: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Subject: Response To Your Email
To: johnb@fbcjax.com
Date: Monday, February 16, 2009, 5:55 PM

Dear Reverend John Blount, III,

In response to your email last week regarding the Feb 23 deacon meeting:

You have chosen to ignore my express requests for you not to contact me or my family again. Your email states this is due to the by-laws 'compelling' you to communicate with me. What by-laws compel this? As you know John, I have several times asked for a copy of the by-laws so that I can understand this process to which you are subjecting my wife and I. But you have chosen not to give me a copy of any such by-laws that compel this, or that compel me to meet with any committee, or that place conditions on whether I can attend church or that allow trespass warnings to be issued to my wife and I, or that state whether or not I may attend a meeting where charges against me are being discussed by the deacons. I will state it again John: please provide me a copy of the bylaws that contain this process that you say is according to scripture and is being used to accuse me and discipline me and my wife. If you would provide me a copy of these by-laws, and I see they do in fact contain these conditions and they do in fact 'compel' me to meet with the committee, I will be glad to meet with them. This has been my contention ever since you and Rev King appeared at my door the day before Thanksgiving to serve me the trespass warnings and letter demanding that I appear before a discipline committee.

Also, the committee has accused me of being responsible for a number of harmful and divisive things at FBC Jax, none of which have been supported by any evidence whatsoever. Further, much of what I am accused of in the November 2008 letter is a matter of the committee's opinion only and certainly there is no evidence to support any of the arbitrary conclusions and charges contained in that letter. I would like to make it clear, again, contrary to your statements, that I am eagerly looking forward to the opportunity to be reconciled with the church by responding to the accusations made against me in the committee's initial letter to me. However, first, I must be presented with the basis of the charges against me. Ecclesiastical matter or not, this is only fair and reasonable. Why would the church of our Lord have lesser rights and protections for its members than are given to citizens that are not members of the body of Christ? Your demanding that I appear before a hand-picked kangaroo court without any representation, frankly, is nothing less than duress and coercion. Your service of trespass warnings attached to that letter shows this and is certainly un-Biblical, unprofessional and outrageous. You and Rev King and the laymen signing those papers should be ashamed of themselves.

Your persistent efforts to coerce me to meet with the committee members without the decency to first attempt to comply with Matthew 18 is even more remarkable. John, you know that not one single lay person, friend, staff member, deacon, pastor

or pastor's wife or anyone else at the church has ever come to me to discuss any of the items contained in the committee's letter to me. None. Just you and Rev King showing up at my doorstep after calling me and hanging up on me to make sure I was home and delivering a letter and leaving right away with no explanation whatsoever, refusing my offer to come in and speak with me. Who knows, had you followed Matthew 18, reconciliation may have occurred long ago. If it had not, then the Bible speaks of two men coming to see me. You know this also has never been done. Then, if reconciliation still was not reached, then and only then, would it be appropriate to send me a letter requesting I meet with "the church" or its discipline committee. Under no circumstances would trespass warnings ever be proper, professional, or Biblical to prevent my wife and I from attending a service while my daughter sang. Again, you and Rev King and your discipline committee should be embarrassed and ashamed of your actions in handling your concerns about me.

As for future church action, do what you feel you have to do in regards to your church discipline process. But please be honest with yourself and with the deacons about the entire process. I would also ask that you consider prayerfully and very carefully any future action by the church against me. I am in position to vigorously defend any action taken against me and if any further harm is done to me or my family in any way, I am prepared to defend myself and will take all legal means necessary to do so. For the church to abuse its powers to ban me and my wife from the property was unnecessary and wrong. To continue to pursue further action may be actionable at law. We shall see.

Please know that I do in fact, wish to be reconciled with the membership of the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, but it is the non-Biblical procedure taken by the discipline committee, and the unreasonable demands they have made, which have prevented, and continue to prevent, reconciliation.

I again request that you, Rev King, or any other FBC Jax staff members or discipline committee members not contact me or any of my family members again. If I do receive any such contact, it will be forwarded to my legal representative, who will be in contact with the Board of Trustees as warranted.

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