



P.O. Box 1988
Grapevine,
Texas 76099-1988

Office
4500 State Highway 360
Grapevine, Texas 76051

Voice
(817) 552-2500

Toll Free
(877) 953-SBTC

Fax
(817) 552-2501

Email
sbtexas@sbtexas.com

Website
www.sbtexas.com

Kenneth Priest
Church Ministries
Associate

Email
kpriest@sbtexas.com

Dear Pastor,

I trust your summer has been wonderful and you have had an opportunity to find some time to relax. I wanted to bring you up to date on some changes in the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's State Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament rules and regulations. I am certain you are aware by now of The Gender-Neutral 2011 New International Version Bible. During the 2011 Southern Baptist Convention, the following Resolution was passed:

On The Gender-Neutral 2011 New International Version
June 2011

WHEREAS, Many Southern Baptist pastors and laypeople have trusted and used the 1984 New International Version (NIV) translation to the great benefit of the Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, Biblica and Zondervan Publishing House are publishing an updated version of the New International Version (NIV) which incorporates gender neutral methods of translation; and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists repeatedly have affirmed our commitment to the full inspiration and authority of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:15-16) and, in 1997, urged every Bible publisher and translation group to resist "gender-neutral" translation of Scripture; and

WHEREAS, This translation alters the meaning of hundreds of verses, most significantly by erasing gender-specific details which appear in the original language; and

WHEREAS, Although it is possible for Bible scholars to disagree about translation methods or which English words best translate the original languages, the 2011 NIV has gone beyond acceptable translation standards; and

WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of the inaccurate gender language found in the TNIV is retained in the 2011 NIV; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention has passed a similar resolution concerning the TNIV in 2002; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in

Phoenix, Arizona, June 14-15, 2011 express profound disappointment with Biblica and Zondervan Publishing House for this inaccurate translation of God's inspired Scripture; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage pastors to make their congregations aware of the translation errors found in the 2011 NIV; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we respectfully request that LifeWay not make this inaccurate translation available for sale in their bookstores; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we cannot commend the 2011 NIV to Southern Baptists or the larger Christian community.

Phoenix, Arizona

The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention has developed our position on this issue as well as it relates to Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament (see enclosure).

Effective for our 2012 Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament year, *we will no longer use the New International Version as one of our options.* The acceptable versions for 2012 are the King James Version and the Holman Christian Standard Bible. For the **Children's Drill ONLY** – we will also use the English Standard Version (ESV). (We cannot use the ESV for the Youth and High School because the National Invitational Bible Drill Tournament will NOT recognize the ESV.) We will be putting the Children's ESV verses on our website soon.

We wanted to get this information to you prior to the Fall Launch as we know your students will be returning to their spiritual practices for the Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament.

In addition, I received the information below from Bill Emeott of LifeWay:

A problem has come up regarding the HCSB drill Bibles and verse cards. Our partners in Childhood Ministry Publishing have worked to both share this information and develop a plan to help with the issue.

The 2004 HCSB Drill Bible is now out of print. There are less than 200 left in stock in LifeWay Stores. Almost every store has one copy; a few stores have two copies. Otherwise none of these Bibles are available for sale.

When B&H Publishers reprinted and released the HCSB Drill Bible on May 1, 2011, it was updated with the text from the newest version of the HCSB. Unfortunately, there are changes to five Red Cycle verses in this new edition. Because we were unaware of this release, Childhood Ministry Publishing reprinted all Red Cycle *Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills* materials without any changes to the verses used. Unfortunately, this means that **the Red Cycle verse cards do not match the HCSB Drill Bible currently for sale** in the following 5 verses:

- 2. Leviticus 22:31
- 4. 1 Chronicles 16:8
- 10. Proverbs 20:11
- 11. Micah 6:8
- 22. Ephesians 6:1

We recognize this is placing states in an awkward position. We apologize. LifeWay has updated the HCSB cards with an HCSB 2011 edition red cycle card (enclosure) and is distributing it for free in pdf form to customers for the upcoming year. Please distribute it freely to those in your state (permission to provide this version on your convention websites is granted). We will post this file on LifeWay.com for download and update you as to its location as soon as it is posted and available.

For future years (2013 Drills and beyond), LifeWay will update Bible Drill materials to the new HCSB text.

A note of clarification: We refer to the new HCSB Drill Bible as the 2011 Edition because of its release date. May 1, 2011 is the specific release date for this Bible. Every HCSB Drill Bible online now clearly has this date as part of how it is identified. However, the copyright date inside the Bible (on its cover page) does not say 2011 (but 2009 due to when the changes to the HCSB were copyrighted).

The 2012 Regionals are:

- April 13-14: North Texas; FBC Euless
- April 20-21: West Texas; Redbud Baptist, Lubbock
- April 20-21: South Texas; Spring BC, Spring

The 2012 State Finals are:

- April 28: Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Office, Grapevine

As always, if Lucian, Paul or I can serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to call on us. If you have questions regarding our decision, please contact me directly.

Blessings,

Kenneth W. Priest
817.552.2500
877.953.7282
kpriest@sbtexas.com

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention
Position Paper
2011 NIV Translation

Due to questions of doctrinal integrity, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention will not use the 2011 New International Version (NIV) of the Bible in its Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament events.

Careful consideration of this newest NIV translation led convention staff—in consultation with the best Southern Baptist Convention seminary scholars and with input from the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood—to recommend against using the NIV. This latest version of the NIV is largely an update to the controversial TNIV (Today's New International Version), whose gender-neutral language was problematic for many evangelicals. The TNIV was discontinued, but the 2011 NIV contains many of the same problems of the earlier TNIV.

In weighing the 2011 NIV, the SBTC staff studied:

- Press releases from the NIV's Committee on Biblical Translation (CBT) explaining its translation philosophy and textual decisions;
- Scholarly assessments of the 2011 NIV by several Southern Baptist seminary professors, including Randy Stinson of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and president of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW). It is noteworthy that CBMW has done the most exhaustive research regarding the 2011 NIV and is in the midst of publishing a final report. Attached is an advanced copy of the report.
- The 2000 Baptist Faith and Message confessional statement, which emphasizes the Bible's teaching that male and female, both bearing God's image and equal in nature and worth, have distinct roles in the home and church. This view is called complementarianism.

The SBTC's decision is in line with the findings of the CBMW, which advocates a complementarian view. The strongest consideration in weighing the 2011 NIV should be its faithfulness to translate the Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic biblical manuscripts into readable modern language without regarding social or doctrinal trends.

Yet the NIV 2011 translators elected to use gender-neutral language. This is a primary reason for rejecting this version for use in SBTC Bible Drill. This shift in translation principles sets a potentially dangerous precedent in biblical interpretation.

Perhaps most concerning, according to the CBMW study, is that the 2011 NIV translators did not begin with the 1984 NIV—a version widely used by Southern Baptists and others. Had they done so, they could have suitably updated its language. Rather, they began with the 2005 TNIV and simply attempted to make adjustments to that controversial translation. Approximately 75 percent of the troubled TNIV text remains in the 2011 version.

For these reasons, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention will not use nor recommend the 2011 NIV for Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament competitors.