

Tattnall-Evans Baptist Association  
P. O. Box 158  
Claxton, GA 30417

April 22, 2013

Dear Pastors in the Tattnall-Evans Baptist Association:

The Tattnall-Evans Baptist Association Credentials Committee was assigned the responsibility of studying the request by Sovereign GraceTruth Baptist Church, Inc., 210 S. Duval Street, Claxton, Georgia, to become a member of the Tattnall-Evans Baptist Association. The committee initially met with Rev. James Tippins, pastor of the petitioning church. Later, the committee met with Rev. Tippins and two others representing Sovereign GraceTruth Baptist Church---Rev. Luke Adams, Co-operating Elder of the petitioning church, and Dave Hanson, Elder-in-Training and Chaplain.

The committee has studied the request for membership at length and has met on several occasions to discuss the request. The committee has several concerns which it wishes to communicate in this letter for your consideration. These concerns are as follows:

1. This new work, which offers only an alternative in doctrine and polity, is located in an area of Georgia where the population is already well-served by churches of our association.
2. The church teaches Reformed theology, which is hyper-Calvinistic in nature and which is disruptive when mixed with mainline Southern Baptist theology.
3. The church teaches divisive doctrines, including the belief that God chooses for some to be saved and some to be lost, a belief that does not reflect the love of God for all people as expressed by the death of Christ on the cross.
4. The church subscribes to the Second London Baptist Confession of 1689, a confession which is Calvinistic in nature.
5. The church's polity is not congruent with mainline Southern Baptist church polity regarding democratic processes and spiritual officers as indicated in Article 6 of "The Baptist Faith and Message" (June 4, 2000). This Southern Baptist statement says, "Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes... Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons." The petitioning church believes in rule by elders rather than in congregational church government alone.
6. The church identifies itself as being in fellowship with Founders Ministries, the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals, The Gospel Coalition, and 9 Marks Ministries. (Please see websites for Sovereign GraceTruth Baptist Church, Inc., as well as those for the other organizations listed above.)
7. The church is not "of like faith and order" as required by the Tattnall-Evans Baptist Association constitution.

According to the Tattnall-Evans Baptist Association's Constitution and By-Laws, the Credentials Committee studying this request is to submit its recommendation to the fall associational meeting in October of this year. Please be in prayer about this matter.

Sincerely,

Jimmy King, Committee Member

Ron Ross, Committee Member

Doug Weisel, Committee Member

Terry Quick, Moderator of the Tattnall-Evans Baptist Association

James Bland, Associational Missionary and Committee Chairman