



Elm Grove Baptist Church
 8180 Barksdale Boulevard
 Bossier City, LA 71112

Address Service Requested

White Steeple Banner

Elm Grove Baptist Church

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Football referees are unbiased, right? They would never be influenced by fans or football players, right? Well, according to a recent study football refs are often swayed by their surroundings.

Michael Lopez, a researcher and statistician at Skidmore College in New York, led a study that referees are much more likely to make calls that favor the team whose coaches and players are on the sideline closest to the potential penalty.

Lopez analyzed five years of NFL games, including 1,400 penalty calls where the action happened close to one team's sideline or the other. One of the files he examined was whether referees called a late hit on a player.

If one player is tackling another, you're allowed to do it while the opposing player is within bounds but not if he's out of bounds. But the bodies are usually flying into one another near a sideline. It's

what's called a bang-bang play: it all happens so quickly and the refs have to make a judgment call.

Lopez measured how often these kinds of judgment calls go in favor of the team whose coaches are on the sideline closest to where the potential penalty is taking place. He found referees are much more likely to make calls that comply with what people nearest to them are demanding.

In short, intimidation works. Pressure the refs, get in their face, and they will often cave into social pressure.

The Apostle Paul told the believers in Rome, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind" (Romans 12:2). The word "conformed" has the idea of being pressed into a mold. Paul's teaching was meant to encourage believers not to be persuaded into sinful attitudes, actions and association by peer pressure or other social influences.

Our society today is trying to press Christ followers into its mold.

Social media, entertainment media and even mainstream news media have adopted a worldview that is often unbiblical. Behaviors and lifestyles the Bible refer to as abominations are treated as acceptable by the world. Biblical values are treated with contempt.

It can be tempting to take the easy path when the values of our family, friends, coworkers, and fellow students are opposite to the values of Christ and His Kingdom. It can be tempting to conform under the scowl of unbelievers who falsely accuse of hatred, bigotry and prejudice simply because we accept Kingdom values as our own.

Jesus pronounces a blessing upon those who are persecuted for their faith and upon those who are ridiculed and harassed because they are Christ followers (Matthew 5:11). We must be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58). Let us be lights in a sin-darkened world (Matthew 5:16).

Pastor Brian

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Dalton Lemoine	1st
Elizabeth Lott	17th
Robbie Johnson	18th
David Hay	21st
Brady Henderson	22nd
Dakota Grice	27th
Evelyn McDonald	28th

ANNIVERSARIES

Kerri & Kenny Ponder	14th
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CHARLIE'S CHATS

According to the Bible, being part of a church family is important. Are you interested in serving? We have plenty of areas for you to get involved! Whether it is teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, working in the nursery or children's church or being on a committee...there's always a place for you to serve!



Chili Cook-Off!



Sunday, January 29
Bring your favorite
CHILI!



Fellowship
Saturday,
February 11th
from 12 - 2 p.m.
In the Fellowship Hall



VBS 2017
JUNE 25-29
◁◁ ▷▷ ▷▷
SIGN UP TO
HELP
◁◁ ▷▷ ▷▷
VBS RETREAT AT
TALL TIMBERS
MARCH 3-4

Support our
Hope for Bossier
Food Bank
by Donating
♥ Food
♥ Time
♥ Prayer

Let everything you do be done in *love*
1 CORINTHIANS 16:14



WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Adult Prayer	6:30 p.m.
Youth/Children	
Bible Studies	6:30 p.m.
Praise Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.

DO NOT CONFORM
to the pattern
OF THIS WORLD
BUT BE
Transformed,
BY THE
RENEWING
OF YOUR
MIND.
ROMANS 12:2