

The Southern Baptist Convention Call to Solemn Assembly

Renewing Our Covenant Commitments to Jesus Christ

January 2011

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The Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 15, 2010, recommended that pastors lead their “church by calling a Solemn Assembly in January 2011 for the purpose of calling Christ’s people to return to God, to repentance, and to humility in service to a renewed commitment to Christ and the Great Commission.” At their request, I offer the following suggestions to assist you in leading a time of repentance and renewed commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Prepare for a Solemn Assembly [\[Read More\]](#)

- A. Enlist or identify a leadership team (2 or more including the pastor)
- B. Study “The Call to Prayer and Solemn Assembly” issued in 1989 [\[Read More\]](#)
- C. Pray for the Lord’s specific directions for your church.
- D. Call the entire membership to participate.
- E. Reproduce or purchase copies of the *Consecrate the People* booklet for all students and adults in your church. You have permission to print your own, print quantities for your church, e-mail the booklet, translate and print, or you may purchase copies in packs of 10 for \$4.95 by calling toll free (800) 458-2772 or order online at www.lifeway.com/product/005354150/ [\[Read More\]](#)

II. Sunday #1: Call a Solemn Assembly

- A. Using the example of the Ezra/Nehemiah revival (Nehemiah 8–9), call your church to a time of solemn assembly where you renew your covenant commitments to Jesus Christ. [\[Read More\]](#)
- B. Explain the goals of (1) becoming the people God desires us to be and (2) consecrating ourselves to Him for His divine purposes.
- C. Explain the importance of preparing ourselves individually and corporately as holy and acceptable, living sacrifices to present to our Lord (Romans 12:1).
- D. Distribute *Consecrate the People* and together agree to faithfully prepare this week.

III. Consecrate the People

- A. Individually work through *Consecrate the People*, renew your first love for Christ, confess and repent of known sin, and prepare to renew your covenant commitments to Christ. [\[Read More\]](#)
- B. Provide a small-group opportunity for people to share victories, confess sin to one another in same-gender groupings of 2 or 3, and pray for one another in final preparation for the solemn assembly. This could be done in Sunday School classes prior to the solemn assembly.

IV. Sunday #2: Conduct a Solemn Assembly

- A. Acknowledge God’s presence, holiness, sovereignty, love, and mercy. [\[Read More\]](#)
- B. Remember Christ’s love by paying for our sins on the cross. Reflect on the difference He has made in your lives because of forgiveness, redemption, and salvation. [\[Read More\]](#)
- C. Identify Christ’s invitation to consecration and full surrender to Him. [\[Read More\]](#)
- D. Provide for corporate confession, repentance, and prayer. (For example: invite people to confess sin by standing if they have identified idols of the heart. Then ask a leader to pray for cleansing, forgiveness, and restoration for those standing.) [\[Read More\]](#)
- E. Make final preparations in a time of prayer and meditation. [\[Read More\]](#)
- F. Extend an invitation for people to acknowledge their consecration and full surrender to Christ.
- G. Sing “I Surrender All” (or a similar song of commitment).
- H. Renew your covenant commitments to Jesus Christ. Read Scriptures and guide the congregation in responsive commitment to be the people God asks us to be (*Consecrate*, p. 16). [\[Read More\]](#)
- I. Celebrate Christ and the New Covenant He has provided by His blood. [\[Read More\]](#)