

**From:** Charles R. Poor [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017 6:08 PM  
**To:** 'Charles R. Poor'  
**Subject:** FW: Pressler Letter - Final

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**From:** Charles R. Poor [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2004 9:04 PM  
**To:** 'Gregg Matte'  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Pressler Letter - Final

Gregg, as promised, here is the letter that the committee hand delivered to Paul on August 23.

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Judge Paul Pressler August 23, 2004

[REDACTED]  
Houston, TX 77056 Hand Delivered  
Dear Paul,

We are writing this letter from two different stances: first, as a committee representing Houston's First Baptist Church; and second, as your friends and brothers in Christ. We prayerfully believe each stance is important and necessary. As you read this letter, keep in mind that we did not seek to be involved in this matter; rather, we agreed to serve when asked to administer an official church policy related to conflict between members of HFBC ~ in this case [REDACTED] and you. During this process, we have sought to protect the unity of HFBC, the cause of Christ and your reputation by not disclosing our conversation or other information pertaining to this matter outside of our committee.

I - As a committee representing Houston's First Baptist Church ...

After meeting separately with [REDACTED] and you, we naturally concluded there is no way for us to know what did or did not transpire between the two of you on the night in question in areas where your individual accounts differ. However, we can reach conclusions and form opinions based on your individual accounts that are in agreement. Both of you told us there was a period of time when, following your suggestion, you and [REDACTED] were together and naked at your home.

We recognize that what individuals choose to do in the privacy of their own home (including being unclothed) is their business and of no concern to outsiders, like us. We are making no judgment in that regard.

However, we do find unacceptable your being naked with [REDACTED] a young man about a third of your age, because (i) you are both members of HFBC, (ii) your relationship with [REDACTED] commenced through HFBC, (iii) you were seen by [REDACTED] to be a HFBC leader/mentor whose behavior was worth emulating, and (iv) [REDACTED] has reported the matter to HFBC out of concern.

Our decision to deem your behavior with [REDACTED] to be unacceptable is based upon the following:

A) Our subjective opinion that the vast majority of HFBC members would deem the naked behavior between you and [REDACTED] on the night in question to be morally and spiritually inappropriate.

B) Our objective evaluation that your encouraging [REDACTED] to be naked with you conflicts with the 2003 HFBC Deacon Document that you and other deacons personally endorsed. In particular, we believe your naked behavior with [REDACTED] is inconsistent with item II-J under Biblical Standards for a Deacon ("Abstains from any personal conduct or activity that would distort his testimony to the lost or cause another believer to stumble - Rom. 14:21, I Cor. 8:9").

In light of the above, we believe it is biblical and consistent with the culture of HFBC to hereby communicate an expectation that you no longer engage in behavior such as occurred with [REDACTED] on the night in question. Furthermore, assuming your willingness to sincerely do so, we would appreciate receiving a commitment from you that you will abide by this expectation.

II - As your friends and brothers in Christ ...

Paul, as you detailed some of the factors active in your life that demand your time and attention, we found ourselves sympathetic toward your having to deal with such pressures. While we are unable to eliminate those personal burdens, we can join you in praying for relief and direction from the Lord as you manage very weighty personal, professional, denominational and family circumstances.

Beyond our praying with you, it is our sincere recommendation that (if not already in place) you prayerfully seek selected outside guidance to help you bear the many burdens in your life. This outside guidance could come from different avenues, such as professional counseling, an accountability group, or other safe and trusted sources. The important thing is that you do not function in an "I must go it alone" mode; but rather that you adopt the Old Testament teaching of "wisdom in many counselors," and the New Testament teachings of "bearing one another's burdens" and "receiving comfort from others." Just as you have sought to lighten the loads of others through the years, you should allow others to assist in bearing your burdens.

Further, while the concern of our committee was to deal with a matter that occurred between you and another member of our church, as your friends and brothers in Christ, we would recommend that you abstain from similar activities with others, regardless of whether or not they are affiliated with HFBC. Given your stature and various leadership roles in our church, the Southern Baptist Convention and other Christian organizations, it is our considered opinion that this kind of behavior, if brought to light, might distort your testimony or cause others to stumble. We desire neither, but, rather, pray that God continues to use your gifts and talents to accomplish His will and purposes.

In closing, we pray that you will receive this letter in the spirit it is written, not out of judgment but out of concern and love, which we know you share, for Christ, His church and body of believers, and our testimony to a needy world. We stand with you, as men with clay feet, fully understanding that it is by His grace we are saved and by His kindness that we are brought to repentance.

Representing Houston's First Baptist Church

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Jay Brown Kenneth H. Pearce Charles R. Poor