

BIO FOR PHILLIP BETHANCOURT

Dr. Phillip Bethancourt is Executive Vice President of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. Since 2013, he has led the staff, strategy, and operations for the ethics and public policy arm of the largest Protestant denomination in the United States. Bethancourt regularly preaches and trains leaders at key churches around the country. Since he was licensed and ordained at Central Church as a Southern Baptist minister, Dr. Bethancourt has more than a decade of experience on staff for a number of SBC Churches—from his first role as Central’s Associate University Minister to his current capacity as a Bi-vocational Preaching Pastor at Redemption City Church in Franklin, TN.

Dr. Bethancourt serves as a “pastor to pastors” at the ERLC as he works with hundreds of senior pastors and church leaders from around the country to navigate complex cultural issues in light of the gospel. He oversees the ERLC Leadership Council, providing intentional investment for over 100 SBC pastors and leaders each year to equip them to handle important moral and ethical issues. After completing an M.Div. and Ph.D. in Christian Theology at Southern Seminary, Dr. Bethancourt previously served as a seminary administrator and professor, teaching in the area of systematic theology.

He is an active author, who has co-written three books: *Exalting Jesus in Genesis*, *Christ-Centered Parenting: Gospel Conversations on Complex Cultural Issues*, and *Religious Liberty: How the Gospel Shapes Our First Freedom*. A widely-sought cultural commentator, Dr. Bethancourt speaks frequently to issues of theology, culture, and church leadership. He has appeared on or been quoted by many of the nation’s leading news outlets, including ABC, NPR, Politico, and USA Today. But his deepest passion is to equip the church through expository preaching and discipleship that leads to a passion for the lost, a commitment to healthy families, and a focus on reaching the next generation for Christ.

As a fifth generation Texan and third generation Texas A&M Aggie, Dr. Bethancourt is intimately familiar with the Lone Star state, Baptist life in Texas, and loves the Brazos Valley. Prior to entering ministry, Dr. Bethancourt earned a B.B.A. in Accounting and a M.S. in Finance as he worked in public accounting and commercial real estate. He met his wife Cami, who is originally from Abilene, at Texas A&M where they married in 2005. They are raising four boys in Franklin, TN.