

2015 Resolutions Committee Report Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

Resolution One: On the Sufficiency of the Word of God for the Entire Christian Life

WHEREAS, the Word of God is the divinely inspired revelation of God, holy men having been moved by the Holy Spirit to speak the Word of God and write the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:19-21); and

WHEREAS, the Word of God accomplishes the purposes for which the all-wise God sends it being a living, active, searching and convicting instrument of God (Isaiah 55:8-11, Hebrews 4:11-13); and

WHEREAS, the Word of God through the Spirit converts souls, makes wise, rejoices hearts and enlightens eyes; moreover, it endures forever, is altogether true and righteous and is to be desired above all things (Psalm 19:7-10); and

WHEREAS, the Word of God through the Spirit brings warning against human sin and reveals eternal reward having the ability to make one wise unto salvation, through the instrument of preaching and its reception by faith and the Word convicts the human heart and mouth through preaching and must itself be internally believed and externally confessed for human salvation (Psalm 19:11-12, 2 Timothy 3:15; Romans 10:8-10, 14, 17); and

WHEREAS, the Word of God is the only source of wisdom and knowledge that is eternal, that is profitable for teaching, reproving, correcting and instructing in righteousness, and that is able to equip for every work that is good (Isaiah 40:6-8, 2 Timothy 3:16-17); and

WHEREAS, all human forms of wisdom and knowledge are temporary and thus ultimately lack relevance, are corrupted by sin and thus utterly lack righteousness and are severely limited and thus are unable to redeem (Isaiah 40:6-7, 55:6-9); now, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Houston, Texas, November 9-10, 2015, call Texas Southern Baptists to remember that the Word of God establishes the standards by which all forms of human wisdom and knowledge and all aspects of human culture and activity must be judged; and be it further

RESOLVED, we call on Texas Southern Baptists to remember that the Word of God alone is righteous, and that fallen human beings lack righteousness; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage Southern Baptists to remember that the Word of God through the Spirit is able to redeem sinful human beings; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage every Christian home to place the Word of God at the center of its life through daily family worship, private devotions and personal memorization; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage churches, pastors, other church leaders, missionaries and missionary boards, to keep the Word of God central in worship, proclamation, discipleship, evangelism and in any and all methodologies adopted for these ends; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage every Southern Baptist educational institution, including home schools, schools, colleges, universities and seminaries, to make the Word of God central to their educational goals, entire educational curriculum and every course's content; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage every Southern Baptist engaged in secular education, including public elementary schools, high schools, technical schools, colleges and universities to present the Word of God constantly, consistently and compellingly to people with whom they are engaged; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage every Southern Baptist engaged in commerce, whether as an employer or employee, or as a seller or buyer of goods, or as a provider or recipient of services, to present the Word of God constantly, consistently and compellingly to people with whom they are engaged; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage every Christian voter and every Christian public servant to make their decisions with regard to the legislation, execution and judgment of laws based upon and under the authority of the Word of God, and therefore with the highest regard for religious liberty; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the totality of the Christian life, corporately and individually, in the family, in the church and in the broader society, must be based upon, focused upon and have as its goal obedience to and proclamation of the Word of God.

Resolution Two: On Biblical Roles and Purity in Marriage

WHEREAS, the marriage covenant, defined in Scripture as being between one man and one woman for life, was created and ordained by God, and the *Baptist Faith and Message (2000)* states in Article XVIII, "Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime" (Genesis 2:15–25, Matthew 19:4–9, Mark 10:6–9); and

WHEREAS, Scripture declares that God made humans male and female, and the *Baptist Faith and Message* states in Article III, "Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation" (Genesis 1:27, Matthew 19:4, Mark 10:6); and

WHEREAS, Scripture describes the complementary yet distinct roles of men and women in marriage, and the *Baptist Faith and Message* states in Article XVIII, "The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the

church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation” (Ephesians 5:22–33, 1 Peter 3:1–7); and

WHEREAS, God’s Word declares that the only proper context for sexual expression is in the union of one man and one woman in the covenant of marriage and any violation of this standard is sinful and, the *Baptist Faith and Message* states in Article XVIII that marriage is “the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards” (Exodus 20:14, Deuteronomy 5:18, Hebrews 13:4); and

WHEREAS, the recent scandal involving the Ashley Madison website has made the church more aware of the prevalence of sexual sin in our churches and our culture; and

WHEREAS, in *Obergefell v. Hodges* the Supreme Court of the United States has redefined marriage to include relationships specifically prohibited by Scripture; and

WHEREAS, the family is the basic building block of society and a biblical understanding of the family is essential for building a healthy society; now, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 9–10, 2015, in Houston, Texas, do affirm the biblical definition of marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman as the standard for all marriages; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm the biblical roles of husbands and wives in which a husband loves his wife sacrificially as Christ loves the church and leads her with grace, while a wife submits to her husband as unto the Lord and respects him; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we will demonstrate sexual purity in our marriages as an expression of God’s design for human sexuality whereby the only proper context for sexual expression is between one man and one woman within the covenant of marriage; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we affirm that God offers His love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ to those who recognize their sin and are willing to repent and obey His word; as a result, any broken relationship can be restored. (1Corinthians 6:11, Romans 5:8)

Resolution Three: On the Affirmation of Love for All

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that all human beings are created in the image of God according to His likeness and that all people are equally loved by God and were created with divine purpose and with intrinsic value (Genesis 1:26-28); and

WHEREAS, Scripture commands Christians to "owe no man any thing, but to love one another" and commands us to give love unconditionally and generously to all, just as our Lord Jesus exemplified (Romans 12:9-21, 13:8, John 10:34-35); and

WHEREAS, in the United States of America and throughout the world we are witnessing hatred, violence, slander, abuse, brutality, persecutions and coldness of heart perpetrated by the prideful against others who differ from them (2 Timothy 3:1-5); now, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Houston, Texas, November 9-10, 2015, call all Christians to unconditionally love all human beings, who are made in the image of their Creator, regardless of age, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, race, economic status, work profession, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other personal differences or distinctions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we agree that genuine love is owed to all, and that giving such love does not mean we accept or agree with actions counter to biblical teachings, rather such love extends the grace and mercy our Father in heaven has extended toward us; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we will fully embrace and actively fulfill our Lord Jesus' teaching to love all people and to seek to be known by our love for one another, regardless of the personal costs of doing so (John 13:34-35); and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we will earnestly pray to the Lord of the harvest, seeking a true spiritual revival for our nation, believing that without such a revival, unity and love among His creation will be impossible to achieve (Matthew 9:38, 2 Chronicles 7:14).

Resolution Four: On the Dignity of Human Life from Conception to Natural Death

WHEREAS, Christians are to be people who respect and value human life from conception to natural death—without compromise, without exception and without apology; and

WHEREAS, we should promote and defend the sanctity of life and family in our communities by prayer, service and education; and

WHEREAS, society has become more aware of the brutal nature of abortion through the undercover Planned Parenthood videos; and

WHEREAS, many women regret their decision to abort, and Christians are bound by love to lead others to treat these women and their unborn babies with dignity; and

WHEREAS, we should also walk alongside women, men and families that are facing unwanted pregnancies and provide the necessary support to assist them to understand all of the difficult emotions, questions, decisions and choices they face as they develop positive plans for their futures, whether they choose adoption or parenting (Psalm 82:4); and

WHEREAS, God's people are called in Scripture to care for the material needs of orphans through tithes and harvesting practices, the church should become active and involved, as there are prospective parents waiting for every child available for adoption through adoption agencies; (Deuteronomy 14:29, 24:19) now, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Houston, Texas, November 9-10, 2015, support adoption and orphan care as we are biblically instructed to do in Psalm 82:3 "Provide justice for the needy and the fatherless; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute"; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage churches to engage in culture-changing community work to train, organize, equip and support pro-life leaders to affirm the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, according to the witness of Scripture; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we believe churches should support pregnancy resource centers and other ministries which help alleviate some of the burden on the women, men and families confronting unwanted pregnancies.

Resolution Five: On Personal Holiness

WHEREAS, the Word of God, the Bible, is the complete, trustworthy and inerrant written record of God's revelation of Himself to man (John 16:13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21); and

WHEREAS, God is holy, and has commanded His people to be holy as He is holy (Leviticus 11:44, 1 Peter 1:15-16); and

WHEREAS, God has chosen to reveal His holiness to the world through His people (2 Corinthians 7:1, 1 Thessalonians 4:7, Hebrews 12:14, Ephesians 4:20-24); and

WHEREAS, God has commanded His people to be devoted to prayer and to pray without ceasing (Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17); and

WHEREAS, Christians are commanded to daily spend time alone with God in prayer and immersed in His Word, confessing and forsaking our sins, seeking His will to the neglect of our own, in order to grow in holiness; now, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Houston, Texas, November 9-10, 2015, humble ourselves before our Creator and Redeemer, to acknowledge that we are not yet complete (Philippians 1:6, 3:12); and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage one another in repentance of sins, confessing them to God and forsaking them in practice, pleading with God for the transformation which will come from the power of His resurrection through our brokenness; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we engage in faithful and fervent prayer for the spiritual healing of our churches, that Christ's people shall be so filled with the Holy Spirit that a spiritual awakening shall be the result; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we are committed to living out God's holiness in our culture, resulting in renewed zeal to share the gospel of Jesus with lost people for the purpose of winning them to faith in Christ and discipling them in such a way that they will in turn win others to Christ.

Resolution Six: On Prayer and Appreciation for the State of Texas Government

WHEREAS, God has ordained the governing bodies of man, and we are to be subject to these institutions (Romans 13:1, 1 Peter 2:13-17); and

WHEREAS, we are called to pray for our leaders and for the place where God has sent us (1 Timothy 2:1-4, Jeremiah 29:7); and

WHEREAS, we are called to pray for the healing of our land (2 Chronicles 7:14); and

WHEREAS, the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas passed the Pastor Protection Act to guard members of the clergy against lawsuits or prosecution for refusing to conduct marriages that violate God's plan and biblical outline for the sacred institution of marriage; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2015, Governor Greg Abbott signed the Pastor Protection Act into law; and

WHEREAS, as of October 19, 2015, the Texas Legislature ended state funding of Planned Parenthood, an organization that provides and promotes abortion services, and subsequently opened a criminal investigation regarding Planned Parenthood's activities in the state; now, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 9-10, 2015, in Houston, Texas, hereby express our appreciation and thanks to the Texas Executive and Legislative branches for their leadership and commitment to protecting pastors and churches; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we thank the governing bodies of Texas for ceasing public funding of Planned Parenthood, an organization that fails to recognize the dignity of all human life; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we urge our churches and members to pray continually for our community leaders and elected officials, that they may seek and find God's wisdom and counsel in all of their decisions.

Resolution Seven: On Appreciation for President Jimmy Pritchard

WHEREAS, Pastor Jimmy Pritchard has served as president of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention for the years 2014 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pritchard has led our convention with great grace, dignity and integrity, demonstrating a Christ-like spirit; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pritchard has a heart and vision for our nation and the world, supporting mission causes nationally and internationally through the Cooperative Program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pritchard has led a Praying Across Texas emphasis and has joined with pastors, staff and laypersons crying out for spiritual awakening in all 18 ministry zones of the SBTC; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pritchard's term as president ends with the conclusion of our 2015 annual meeting; now, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Houston, Texas, November 9-10, 2015, express our appreciation to Pastor Jimmy Pritchard for his service and leadership as convention president and to the First Baptist Church, Forney, Texas, for their sacrificial generosity in sharing their pastor with our convention.

Resolution Eight: On Appreciation for Champion Forest Baptist Church

WHEREAS, the messengers to the 2015 meeting of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention have enjoyed a time of worship, encouragement and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge God's providence for all of these blessings; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the kind hospitality and generosity of the staff and leadership of Champion Forest Baptist Church to host this convention; and

WHEREAS, we gratefully acknowledge the extraordinary commitment, extensive labor and excellent leadership of the pastor, Dr. David Fleming; and

WHEREAS, we gratefully acknowledge that other area churches have also extended hospitality and provided volunteer assistance; and

WHEREAS, we also acknowledge the Lord's work in enabling all our officers, various committees, convention speakers, musicians, convention staff and messengers to conduct the affairs of this convention with dignity and a Christ-like spirit; now, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Houston, Texas, November 9-10, 2015, hereby express our profound gratitude to the Lord and to all those He used to bring about a meeting characterized by evangelism, worship and encouragement.