

2002 Resolutions

Resolution #1 The Psalm 139 Project

WHEREAS, The Bible teaches human life is sacred because God created human beings in His own image (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 9:6); and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists have historically affirmed the Bible's teaching on the sanctity of human life from conception onward, acknowledging that is God who fashions us in our mother's womb (Psalm 139:13); and

WHEREAS, Modern medical technology such as ultrasound provides a window to the womb allowing a mother to see her unborn child; and

WHEREAS, Evangelical pregnancy centers report that when a woman considering abortion views a sonogram of her child, 98% of them choose life for their child; and

WHEREAS, Scripture commands us to defend the rights of the defenseless and to care for those who are in distress (1 John 3:16-20; 1 Peter 3:8; Philippians 2:4);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Houston, TX, October 28-29, 2002, affirm the biblical teaching that God is author of life and that human life begins at conception (Psalm 51:5; Psalm 139:14-16; Jeremiah 1:5); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the use of ultrasound technology in pregnancy care centers to save babies' lives and spare women the trauma of abortion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we affirm The Psalm 139 Project (www.psalms139project.org), an effort of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission to make Southern Baptists and others aware of the value of this ultrasound technology and encourage gifts to fund the placement of sonogram machines at evangelistic-oriented pregnancy care centers, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we encourage the churches and members of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention to this life-saving effort.

Resolution #2 The Centrality of Christ

WHEREAS, the justness of God is an attribute of God that is both observable in human nature and in Scripture (Deuteronomy 32:4; 2 Corinthians 19:7; Psalm 98:9); and

WHEREAS, God's justice demands that humans be held accountable for their actions, with the end result being that all humans are morally guilty and separated from God (Isaiah 59:2; Romans 6:23); and

WHEREAS, the biblical term for this human condition is "lost," and this lostness left uncorrected brings the judgment of God on an individual for eternity (Luke 19:10); and

WHEREAS, the love of God prompted Him to do something about human lostness by becoming a man in order to make the sacrificial, substitutionary death necessary to satisfy His own demand for justice, (John 3:16; Romans 5:6); and

WHEREAS, the fundamental truth of Christianity is that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 Peter 3:18); and

WHEREAS, from the beginning to the end, the Bible proclaims salvation through the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and no other (Acts 4:12); and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ insisted that there were no alternate ways to God and claimed that He alone was the one, exclusive way to know and relate to God (John 14:6); and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ sent His followers into a religiously pluralistic society to proclaim without apology the indispensability of Christ for salvation, calling on all persons everywhere to repent or perish (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 1 & 2);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, we call on all Southern Baptists of Texas to hold tenaciously to the centrality of Christ as the only way to salvation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage them to continue to love and pray for those who are lost and separated from God; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage Southern Baptist Churches of Texas to increase their efforts to proclaim God's good news that sinners can be saved by grace through faith alone.

Resolution #3

Church and State Relations

WHEREAS, the earliest colonists came to this continent in the pursuit of religious liberty; and

WHEREAS, the founding fathers believed, as do we, that God created us with inalienable rights, one being religious liberty; and

WHEREAS, our constitution prescribes freedom to pursue religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, interference by all government entities in religious liberty is prohibited by the First Amendment to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress enacted the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act in the year 2000 to prevent cities from enacting zoning laws or taking other actions that infringe upon religious liberties and inhibit religious institutions; and

WHEREAS, increasing conflicts have arisen between local governments and local churches concerning the rights of churches to build, develop, and expand;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention request that all government bodies respect the Constitution and abide by the laws pertaining to religious liberty; and...

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Southern Baptists of Texas are encouraged to make known to the government bodies the religious liberty rights provided by law.

Resolution #4 Journalistic Integrity

WHEREAS, the Christian community acknowledges the vital role of the press in a free society; and

WHEREAS, the biblically-based Christian worldview is often scorned and misrepresented in the secular press; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention holds the worldview that absolute truth is revealed in God's written Word, the Holy Scriptures; and

WHEREAS, the biblically-based Christian worldview is well-founded and has millions of adherents who deserve respect in the market place;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern Baptists of Texas call upon all print and electronic journalists to treat with integrity and respect the Christian worldview by means of fair, accurate, and unbiased reporting.

Resolution #5 Annuitants

WHEREAS, the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has informed all Southern Baptists that there are at least 7,000 retired Southern Baptist Minister, and/or their widows, drawing less than \$200 per month from their annuity plan; and

WHEREAS, we owe a great debt of gratitude to those faithful servants who sacrificially served the Lord and His bride, the church, regardless of their financial compensation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention encourages all its member churches to prayerfully consider adopting one or more of these deserving servants with a gift of \$75 per annuitant per month.

Resolution #6
Appreciation of Sagemont Church, Houston, TX

BE IT RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention meeting in Houston, October 28-29, 2002 wish to express gratitude and appreciation to Sagemont Church, Houston, TX, Pastor John Morgan, and Skip Smith for their gracious and untiring effort on our behalf; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we pray God's continued blessing on this great church and all who come under its influence.