

Resolution one: On Appreciation for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

WHEREAS, the messengers to the 2014 session 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 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to host this convention; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the extraordinary commitment, extensive labor, and excellent leadership of SWBTS President Paige Patterson; and

WHEREAS, we gratefully acknowledge that 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, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 10-11, in Fort Worth, Texas, 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.

Resolution two: On Compassionate Evangelism

WHEREAS, perhaps more than at any point in history, human society today stands in need of unflinching, prophetic correction; and

WHEREAS, it has at times been the case that such corrective utterances from Christians have been perceived as divisive or demeaning, and indeed that some who lack an understanding of the gospel have actually intended them to be so; and

WHEREAS, after the gospel had initially moved from Jerusalem and Judea into Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth by the end of Acts 8, God turned the attention of the gospel purpose to the conversion of the greatest opponent of Christianity into its greatest advocate; and

WHEREAS, the pattern of Paul's life, having been so transformed, was himself to invite the opponents of the gospel into its abundant, kind grace and forgiveness; and

WHEREAS, Jesus himself, whom we explicitly follow, chose the outsiders wherever he served as the focus of his invitation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 10-11, in Fort Worth, Texas, encourage all believers to treat every person with the compassion and respect merited by persons created in and still bearing the image of God, and share the good news of Christ within their sphere of influence, considering that Christ came to save sinners, among whom we are in as great a need as any.

Resolution three: On Gambling

WHEREAS, the gambling industry and the state of Texas spend massive amounts of advertising money, luring many people into gambling addiction; and

WHEREAS, [one in thirty](#) citizens gambles compulsively, resulting in serious consequences for families; and

WHEREAS, [six percent](#) of college students are already addicted to gambling; and

WHEREAS, statistics in gambling communities have shown both a significant increase in crime and a significant decline in retail sales; and

WHEREAS, annual proceeds from the Texas Lottery pay for only three days of the state's yearly primary and secondary educational costs, although advocates convinced voters that educational costs in Texas would be significantly funded; and

WHEREAS, 2015 state budget demands will test the resolve of elected officials to provide for our needs without succumbing to the temptation to depend upon revenues from casino gambling, Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs), and expanded lotteries to meet legitimate budget needs; and

WHEREAS, gambling is the attempt to meet one's needs through chance while Scripture encourages us to build resources through labor (Proverbs 13:11); and

WHEREAS, gambling further burdens those already in financial difficulty, and every gambling technology magnifies the addictive tendencies associated with gambling; and

WHEREAS, 1 Timothy 6:9-10 says, "But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierce themselves with many griefs," and Proverbs 15:27 says, "He who profits illicitly troubles his own house;" now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 10-11, in Fort Worth, Texas, declare our opposition to gambling, specifically to the expansion of gambling and the expanded use of gambling technologies in Texas; and be it further

RESOLVED, we call upon our legislature, the attorney general, and the governor's office to reject any state budget that relies on monies from gambling to fund legitimate state responsibilities and to prohibit state agencies and commissions from allowing the expanded use of gambling technologies; and be it finally

RESOLVED, we encourage our churches in their continued efforts to educate their members about the dangers of gambling and minister to those caught in gambling addictions.

Resolution four: On Gender Identity

WHEREAS, God created all human beings to be male or female; and

WHEREAS, apparent exceptions do not negate the intrinsic gendered nature of every human being; and

WHEREAS, current cultural permissiveness invites gender confusion; and

WHEREAS, neither psychological gender confusion nor medical gender reassignment actually changes a person's gender; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 10-11, in Fort Worth, Texas, affirm that gender identity is determined by God through biological sex and not by self-perception, which is often influenced by the fallen nature of mankind; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage elected officials and policy makers to refrain from public policies recognizing such changes in self-perception or expression of gender as creating a protected class of individuals or as evidence of an actual change of gender; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we affirm and support pastors as they proclaim the truth of God's Word about these issues from their pulpits, in their writings, in their public appearances, and in their support of righteousness in their communities.

Resolution five: On Legislation Supporting Women's and Children's Health

WHEREAS, during a special session, the 83rd Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2 to protect and serve the health of women throughout Texas:

1. Requiring abortion doctors have admission privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the abortion facility;
2. Requiring dispensation of RU-486, an abortifacient drug, according to Federal Drug Administration standards;
3. Requiring abortion facilities to meet Texas ambulatory surgical facility standards;
4. Prohibiting abortion on preborn babies 20 weeks and older; and

WHEREAS, Rick Perry, the governor of Texas, determined this legislation to be so important that he called two special sessions of the Texas Legislature to pass it; and

WHEREAS, more than 75,000 babies were aborted annually in Texas prior to January of 2014, more than in all but three other U.S. states; and

WHEREAS, although Planned Parenthood and other unaffiliated abortion providers have purported to protect women's health, the vast majority of these facilities have failed to meet the above basic requirements; and

WHEREAS, the legislation passed a bipartisan vote of the legislature; and

WHEREAS, 38 abortion facilities have been closed as a direct result of that legislation; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the lives of thousands of children have already been saved and that 40,000 children's lives will be saved each year as a result of the closures; and

WHEREAS, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled to this point that the legislation is legal and binding, pending U.S. Supreme Court review; and

WHEREAS, the Lord's hand of blessing has clearly removed past obstacles and facilitated that legislation forward into Texas law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 10-11, in Fort Worth, Texas, hereby express our appreciation to Governor Rick Perry, Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst, Representative Jodie Laubenberg, and Senator Glenn Hegar for their efforts in authoring and working to pass this legislation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage our churches and church members to vote for pro-life elected officials who will defend this and all future pro-life efforts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage our churches to actively pray that this legislation be upheld and fully implemented and not be vulnerable to liberal activist courts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage other state legislatures to follow the lead set by the Texas legislature of the State of Texas by imposing the above reasonable restrictions on their own abortion industries, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that, just as the abortion industry began in the state of Texas, we fervently, faithfully, and daily pray that the end of the abortion industry also begin in the state of Texas.

Resolution six: On Pornography

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches us that God's design for sex provides a beautiful picture of the gospel, which is greater and higher than the deceptive allure of today's overly sexualized culture; and

WHEREAS, pornography is a growing problem in society today with [4.2 million](#) websites comprising 25 percent of all search engine requests and adding up to a \$13.3 billion industry; and

WHEREAS, pornography is a growing problem in churches as well, with [57 percent](#) of pastors indicating that pornography addiction is the most sexually damaging issue in their congregations, and [75 percent](#) of pastors being unaccountable for their Internet use; and

WHEREAS, access to pornography is much easier every year with advances in technology, with [90 percent](#) of boys being exposed to pornography by the age of 18, and [68 percent](#) of young adult men admitting to using pornography at least once per week; and

WHEREAS, pornography is damaging and demeaning to everyone involved in producing and distributing it; and

WHEREAS, pornography degrades and objectifies women and their valued role in our culture while destroying their lives through increased drug use and other destructive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, pornography is also destructive to marriage, families, individuals, and the culture affected by its use, resulting in divorce, human trafficking and slavery, and desensitization throughout society, particularly evidenced in the behavior of teenagers and children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 10-11, in Fort Worth, Texas, urge all pastors and lay leaders to speak clearly and openly to their congregations on God's design for sexuality and the dangers of pornography, while ministering to men and their families who have been devastated by this addiction and considering resources available through sbtexas.com; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we, encourage all parents to take direct action in protecting their children in their online activities and provide biblical direction on God's design for sexuality; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we, call our brothers and sisters to hold each other accountable against pornography and all forms of sexual temptation.

Resolution seven: On Religious Liberty

WHEREAS, the 1999 Texas Religious Freedom Restoration Act places in statute a provision which prohibits, “a government agency from substantially burdening a person’s free exercise of religion, and authorizes a government agency to burden a person’s free exercise of religion if the agency can demonstrate that the burden is the least restrictive means of furthering a compelling governmental interest”; and

WHEREAS, cases continue to be filed in Texas challenging the free expression of personal religious faith in public and private settings, such as:

- Schools punishing students for voicing their opinions on homosexuality;
- Schools restricting children from displaying scripture or other expressions of faith or celebration of a faith-based holiday;
- Schools firing employees for privately praying for an absent co-worker after work;
- Cities disallowing participation in public office holding and contracts as a result of personally held religious beliefs;
- City Councils suing members for praying the Lord’s Prayer;
- Corporations penalizing employees who have spoken their beliefs in their private venues and time;
- Churches being forced to defend their ministries providing housing and religious instruction;
- Christian Colleges and ministries being forced, under the Affordable Care Act, to provide indirectly for abortifacient drugs;
- Citizens being arrested for peaceful preaching and distribution of religious materials on public property;
- Citizens being prevented from having religious meetings in their homes;
- Citizens being denied opportunity to hold religious meetings in public buildings;
- State authorities attempting to force seminaries to get approval of their curriculum, board members and professors;
- Pastors being subpoenaed for their sermons and private communications; and

WHEREAS, the current statute has failed to protect Texans from harassment in these egregious invasions of personal faith; and

WHEREAS, our forefathers, recognizing that the first duty of man is to honor and obey God, inserted into the United States Constitution the First Amendment stating, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances”; and

WHEREAS, the current administration has made pronouncements replacing the constitutionally protected concept, freedom of religion, with the much more limited concept, “freedom of worship”; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 10-11, in Fort Worth, urge all members to faithfully stand for American religious

liberties, as protected in the First Amendment, in all contexts, so that the clear teachings of Scripture may have an audience among all citizens; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage the incorporation of the guarantees within the 1999 Texas Religious Freedom Restoration Act into the Texas Constitution.