

2009 Resolutions Committee Report

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

Resolution One: On Gospel-Centered Ministry

WHEREAS, the gospel of grace is the good news that God redeems the fallen world through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all who repent from sin and believe in Him, irrespective of one's ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender, location, language, or culture (Acts 15:7; Romans 1:16); and

WHEREAS, this gospel resides at the center of the mission of the church, its worship, and its practice (Acts 1:8; 1 Timothy 1:11; 1 Peter 4:6); and

WHEREAS, the gospel equips the church and all believers for sacrificial works of service (Romans 12:1; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Timothy 3:16); and

WHEREAS, the gospel of God prompts all believers to cooperate in giving for a greater good (2 Corinthians 9:13-14); and

WHEREAS, the gospel permeates all dimensions of every believer's life, affecting hearts, desires, goals, work, and commitments (Galatians 2:20); and it encourages all believers to daily faith and action (1 Corinthians 9:23; Philippians 1:27-28); and

WHEREAS, the gospel should be reflected in all believers' lives (John 1:1, 14; Ephesians 5:1; Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 3:2-3); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention meeting in Lubbock, Texas, October 26-27, 2009, affirm that the Christian life must be gospel-centered from beginning to end and not just at the point of conversion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we humbly urge churches to study, understand, and teach how to live Christ-centered, gospel-saturated lives, understanding that our acceptance before God is not contingent upon what we do for God but upon what the resurrected Christ has already done for us in His sinless life and substitutionary death on the cross; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage churches to train and equip leaders to live and serve with the spirit of the gospel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we challenge all churches to encourage and motivate people to continuously be reading through the Bible to better know and understand God's work in the gospel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we exhort our churches to focus evangelism on the sharing of the gospel message, for it is the "power of God for salvation"; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we define all worship, preaching, missions, ministry, evangelism, leadership, and other activities of the church through the gospel where Jesus is exalted and His gospel remains the focus of all action.

Resolution Two: On the Sufficiency of Scripture for the People of God and All Creation

WHEREAS, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness..." (2 Timothy 3:16); and

WHEREAS, "The word of God is living and effective..., and it is a judge of the ideas and thoughts of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12); and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures testify about Jesus and demonstrate that He is the promised Savior of the world (John 3:16; John 5:39; Acts 18:28); and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures are able to instruct one for salvation by God through faith in Christ Jesus alone (2 Timothy 3:15); and

WHEREAS, it is only through the encouragement of the Scriptures that we may have hope (Romans 15:4); and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures alone are our source of divine instruction for faith and life; the Bible alone contains the principles regarding everything God would have His followers think and do (2 Timothy 3:15-17); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention meeting in Lubbock, Texas, October 26-27, 2009, believe the Bible to be the inerrant and infallible word of God for the people of God and all creation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage all people to look to the Scriptures as a divine source of instruction and guidance in their lives, knowing it contains all the words of God we need for His glory and our salvation, for trusting God perfectly, and for obeying His will; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm the whole Bible as Christian Scripture, understanding God does not require from us any belief or action not affirmed either explicitly or implicitly in His Word, the Bible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we understand that God wills for us to emphasize what He emphasizes, being content with the whole counsel of God, requiring what He requires in his Word, and affirming nothing as sin unless it is forbidden explicitly or implicitly in Scripture; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we recognize that the consumption of alcoholic beverages is something that is intrinsically wrong; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge all Christians to read and study the Scriptures, participate in regular personal and corporate study of the Bible, and by the grace of God, to understand and apply it to our lives; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage all churches and entities affiliated with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention to proclaim the word of God as light and life to a dark and dying world.

Resolution Three: On Discipleship

WHEREAS, from the beginning, God created humanity to follow His precepts and fellowship with Him in holiness (Gen 5:21-24; Hebrews 11); and the commandment from Christ to His apostles to “Make disciples of every nation...” (Matt. 28:19) remains the mission of every Christian and every church as we serve Christ as He builds His kingdom; and

WHEREAS, the term “disciple” is the primary referent to Christians in the early church, appearing over 250 times in the Gospels and Acts; and

WHEREAS, God has called all believers to pursue holy and godly lives (2 Peter 3:10-12) by presenting our lives as a “living and holy sacrifice” (Romans 12:1), seeking the transformation by faith through grace as our basic service to Christ; and

WHEREAS, discipleship begins at the point of conversion in the Christian life as the believer follows Christ according to the Scriptures; “exercise yourself toward godliness” (1 Tim 4:7); and

WHEREAS, God has given to every believer and His church “everything we need for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3); therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention meeting in Lubbock, Texas, October 26-27, 2009, desire to be conformed to the image of Christ by following Jesus and His Word, the Bible (Roman 8:28-30); and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm that discipleship involves the whole life, imitating Christ in every area of life, including the progressive transformation of the mind, character, relationships, and service; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we assert that discipleship involves the entire work of every member of the body of Christ, His church, including preaching, teaching, missions, evangelism, and every good work toward which the body of Christ labors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge churches to promote discipleship in every area of Christian life, utilizing corporate, small group, and personal study; and that we encourage families to teach and train their children toward the gospel and godliness (Ephesians 6:4), including the means of their education, whether public or private, at school or at home; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage all Christians to follow Christ by adopting the disciplines commanded in Scripture and by persevering in the pursuit of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit in their personal, family, and church lives.

Resolution Four: On the Great Commission Resurgence

WHEREAS, the commandment from Christ to His disciples to “Go and make disciples of every nation...” (Matt. 28:19) remains the mission of every church as we serve Christ as He builds His kingdom; and

WHEREAS, the churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) continue the faithful cooperative exercise of missions, evangelism, and discipleship; and a larger assembly of churches is also bonded together through common confession and mission in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC); and

WHEREAS, the SBC has expressed the need to order our priorities, focus our vision, define our mission, and spread the gospel to the nations for the glory of God, desiring a “Great Commission Resurgence,” with the approval of a task force, the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, at its June 2009 Convention in Louisville, Kentucky; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, that we recognize the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the sufficiency of His Word, the Bible, to drive us to focus on seeking Christ in every labor, spreading His gospel to every nation, discipling believers, and submitting to His authority in every aspect of our lives; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we covenant together to serve the Lord through Christ-centered, gospel-saturated, humble worship of God through our lives, our churches, and our convention as we seek God’s glory and the good of every nation; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that during the twelfth annual meeting of the SBTC, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention meeting in Lubbock, Texas, October 26-27, 2009, express our commitment to pray for the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force and their labors.

Resolution Five: On the Cooperative Program

WHEREAS, cooperation is the act of New Testament churches organizing and associating for the purpose of pursuing Christ and His call to missions and discipleship; and

WHEREAS, this unity in gospel ministry and voluntary cooperation resides at the center of the mission of the church, its worship and practice; and since 1845, the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention have sought that biblical spirit of harmony and mission; and

WHEREAS, since its creation in 1925, the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention has been the funding vehicle for the undesignated giving of our churches; and

WHEREAS, through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists support approximately 5,300 international missionaries who are engaged in ministry with more than 1,100 different people groups around the world; and

WHEREAS, the SBC through the Cooperative Program supports over 1,455 new churches planted through the efforts of more than 5,271 North American missionaries, whose efforts are coordinated through our North American Mission Board, state conventions, and associations; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Program makes it possible for our six Southern Baptist seminaries to educate in excess of 16,000 pastors, missionaries, and future church leaders each year, and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1998, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention has demonstrated a sacrificial commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission through commitment to the Cooperative Program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention meeting in Lubbock, Texas, October 26-27, 2009, affirm the Cooperative Program as our unrestricted vehicle for funding missions; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we will commit to pray the Lord would make the Cooperative Program a continued basis of unity and mission among the churches in the convention.

Resolution Six: On appreciation for President Bob Pearle

WHEREAS, Pastor Bob Pearle has served as president of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention for the years 2008 and 2009; and

WHEREAS, President Pearle is a courageous man who has led our convention with dignity and grace that demonstrates a Christ-like spirit; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Bob Pearle's term as president ends with the conclusion of our 2009 annual meeting; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention meeting in Lubbock, Texas, October 26-27, 2009, express our appreciation to Pastor Bob Pearle for his service as convention president and to Birchman Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, for their sacrificial generosity in sharing their pastor with our convention to the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.