

Faith and Morals

From many sources we are warned of an ever-increasing social, religious, and political declension in the realm of moral standards, thus showing many grave dangers to our people in almost every area of life, and particularly in matters pertaining to the spiritual life of each individual Christian throughout the world; and in no area is this peril more evident than in matters of church life and doctrinal standards, for there has been a rising tide of compromise in order to promote a "one-world religion"—an effort to bring into one fold all churches of all faiths— and the apparent willingness on the part of the leaders of the ecumenical movement to cast overboard any and all doctrines in favor of an all-inclusive unification. We believe that all moral and spiritual values arise out of fixed and established beliefs of any people, so that a sacrifice of the essential doctrinal standards usually results in a moral and spiritual breakdown of all who are deprived of such standards.

Likewise, we sense a breaking down of moral standards in many areas of political life, as is evidenced by disregarding the moral standards once cherished by the leaders of our country, this being evidenced by the following recent incidents:

- (1) The State of Washington recently passed what is known as a "Tolerance Law" by which gambling is recognized as a legitimate business, no longer being considered as outlawed business.
- (2) The State of Iowa has passed a law granting the liquor people a license to sell liquor "by the drink" thus reopening the old saloons formerly outlawed and from which we were promised by the liquor leaders a final deliverance.
- (3) The seeming abandonment of high standards in marital relationships as is evidenced by a man high in political life, who divorced his wife with whom he had lived and raised a family and soon thereafter married another woman who had divorced her husband only a month previously, thus bringing into public gaze a case which should be stigmatized as a public scandal, but which is presently being given favorable consideration by many.
- (4) The state of New Hampshire established by law a state lottery, thus resorting to immoral means of obtaining funds for the state by appealing to man's sinful desire to obtain much for little without honest labor and at the expense of others similarly greedy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1 That we affirm our belief in, and proclamation of, the Bible as the verbally inspired Word of God; and that we proclaim it as the fixed standard of all beliefs, ideals, and practices, holding as we do, that the Word of God calls upon all born-again professors of Christianity to come out from the world's standards and be a separate people.

2 That we here and now declare our convictions regarding all laxity in morals as being inconsistent with, and inimical to, the testimony of all true Christians, and that we openly oppose all unscriptural conduct in both high and low places of society.

3. That we, the messengers of the churches of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, here assembled in Annual Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, May 16, 1963, call upon all of our 1,100 churches across America to set forth a clear testimony of doctrinal and practical unity, holding the same in opposition to all compromise of Biblical teachings in both faith and morals, and that we challenge all of our people to so live and teach as to manifest that while we oppose all immorality of every kind, and refuse to have any part in the same, that we wholly commit ourselves to lives of scriptural holiness, yet at the same time to show forth the love of God which is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy spirit, and to do this by seeking the salvation of the lost and the true moral uplift of our respective communities; but that we do so without any compromise in either doctrine or practice.

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