

## **A Reaffirmation of Biblical Conviction Regarding Creation**

WHEREAS there are strong religious currents today moving contrary to historic Christian orthodoxy including subtle attacks against the verbal inspiration of the Word of God, the diminishing of its authority, the rejection of the miraculous in the Gospels, the propagation of the theory of the death of God, and even the proposal of Christian atheism; and

WHEREAS Barthian neo-orthodoxy and scientism have made inroads in many ecclesiastical bodies, schools, and mission boards; and

WHEREAS a focal point of subtle attack on the Word of God is the creative account of Genesis 1 and 2, questioning the direct, immediate creative acts of God and implying that the account is allegorical, or mythical, and not to be regarded as a literal, historical record; and

WHEREAS we have a thirty-four year history of separation from religious apostasy and a firm adherence to historic Christian orthodoxy and wish to do all possible to protect our Fellowship from the inroads of Barthianism, current neo-evangelicalism, philosophical relativism, and modern scientism, as well as to protest the vitiating effects of liberal theology upon both church and society; and

WHEREAS the Grand Rapids Association of Regular Baptist Churches in annual meeting in September, 1960, overwhelmingly passed a resolution relative to creative days which states in part, "There are many who hold to six literal days of twenty-four hours each while there are other true, born again, earnest Christians who hold to an age-day interpretation, and such we would not for one moment wish to exclude from fellowship"; and

WHEREAS historically the six creative days have been and are interpreted by most of our Associational churches as twenty-four hour days, yet since such an interpretation has not been regarded as a doctrinal requirement for membership in the local churches, we would not therefore wish to exclude from Associational fellowship those holding other views (providing such views are within the framework of our doctrinal statement and historic Christian orthodoxy);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, in session in the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan, at our 35th annual Conference this 21st day of June,

1966, reaffirm our belief in the full verbal inspiration of the Word of God without any admixture of error for its matter, including our acceptance of the opening chapters of Genesis as being neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God; that man was created by a direct work of God, and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recommend to our fellowshipping churches a Scriptural watchfulness on matters of doctrine clearly delineated in our Confession, lest there be a slow departure from the faith, while at the same time granting the exercise of our historic individual soul liberty in matters beyond the framework of our Confession and the plainly revealed Word of God; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recommend to our autonomous but approved agencies, especially our schools as the fountainhead of our trained Christian servants, and our missions as a comparable fountainhead of worldwide evangelism and church building, that each hold fast our historic doctrinal convictions and guard itself against the inroads of Barthianism, neo-orthodoxy, scientism, and academic idolatry, rejecting theological modernism and neo-evangelism, rejecting and refuting both naturalistic and theistic evolution, and accepting the clear statements of Scripture as having precedence over any pronouncements of science whenever such may appear to be in conflict; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we instruct the Council of Fourteen to approve only such schools, missions, and other agencies as refute both naturalistic and theistic evolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we instruct the Council of Fourteen to maintain a careful scrutiny of the approved schools, missions, and other agencies of our Association in relation to their adherence to the stated doctrinal position of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

*June 20–24, 1966  
Grand Rapids, Michigan*