

Ecumenical Evangelism

WHEREAS the Bible clearly teaches that God has separated His people from the intellectual, moral, and spiritual darkness of this world (Eph. 5:7), and therefore expects them to maintain a separated walk (Eph. 5:10); and

WHEREAS in spite of this Biblical principle, there are many evangelical religious leaders who in philosophy and practice advocate the concept that it is proper for those believing in the historic fundamentals of the Christian faith to unite with those who do not accept all of these fundamentals in various evangelistic endeavors, especially in great city-wide campaigns which often feature in places of leadership religious liberals who deny the Christian faith; and

WHEREAS they seek to justify this approach to evangelism by stating, among other things, that such united efforts are warranted if a good end result is achieved, namely, the salvation of souls; and

WHEREAS this philosophy, commonly referred to as "ecumenical evangelism," has confused many of God's people, created difficulties for godly pastors, caused disruption in local churches, and engendered strife on mission fields;

BE IT RESOLVED that we the messengers of churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, in annual session in Rochester, New York, June 24–28, 1968, go on record as repudiating both the philosophy and practice of "ecumenical evangelism" since it is contrary to the Scriptural teaching of complete separation from heresy and those who hold it (Rom. 16:17, 18; 2 John 10, 11); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the basic philosophy of "ecumenical evangelism," that of broad cooperation with the unorthodox for the sake of winning souls, is, in essence, the same unscriptural error as the "inclusivism" of the old Northern Baptist (now American Baptist) Convention, which error the founders of the GARBC repudiated when they left that Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, as a fellowship of churches, reaffirm our confidence that God will honor the gospel message, if proclaimed in obedience to His total revelation, and that the task of world evangelism is not dependent upon the help of unbelievers for its

success but is assured of success through the sovereign operation of the Holy Spirit (John. 6:37); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we continue earnestly, constantly, dependently, and fervently to evangelize in every place until the Savior returns.

*June 24-28, 1968
Rochester, New York*