

Personal Godliness

WHEREAS modern society has become characterized by increasing permissiveness in moral matters, which is hailed by many as a sign of maturity and deliverance from "puritanical mores"; and

WHEREAS there is a tendency in many Christian circles toward a looser standard of personal living, including a defense of some aspects of worldliness on the grounds that believers are living under grace, not under law, and are therefore free to participate in worldly pleasures without fear of censure on the part of other believers or of local churches; and

WHEREAS this attitude has caused some local churches to weaken their traditional stand against certain worldly pleasures and, in some cases, to refuse to require church members and leaders to adhere to standards of personal separation from the world;

BE IT RESOLVED that the messengers of the churches of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in annual session at Kansas City, Missouri, June 25–29, 1973, reaffirm their convictions that believers in Christ are to live in personal separation from the world unto God (Titus 2:12), and that the life under grace does not imply freedom from all obligation to godly living, but rather grace motivates the believer so that "denying ungodliness and worldly lusts," he should live "soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present age" (Titus 2:11, 12); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage all of our churches and approved agencies to steadfastly maintain standards of conduct for their members and leaders, which are in accord with the command of Scripture, "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1:16), realizing that such standards can only be attained through the constant filling of the Holy Spirit.

*Kansas City, Missouri
June 25–29, 1973*