

The Equal Rights Amendment

WHEREAS an amendment to the U.S. Constitution has been approved by the US Congress and ratified by thirty states known as the Equal Rights Amendment which reads: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on the account of sex"; and

WHEREAS this ERA, though sounding mild and innocuous, has been interpreted in such a way as to be radically opposed to our Christian concept of the role of women in society and the family. In Ohio, which ratified the ERA, the Supreme Court ruled it illegal for employers to maintain separate washrooms for men and women. The US Navy, in a pilot program treating women exactly as men, placed fifty women aboard the USS Sanctuary. Two of the unmarried women became pregnant in the first five months. In Tennessee, which has passed the amendment, a Chattanooga judge ordered a woman awaiting a civil case to be put in a cell with a man. Afterward, the man had to be sentenced for attempted rape; and

WHEREAS opponents have pointed out that the ERA could (1) Make every wife legally responsible to provide half her family's financial support; (2) Wipe out laws which protect women against sex crimes; (3) Subject women to the draft and to combat duty and to living conditions equally with men in our armed forces; (4) Eliminate protection from dangerous jobs in industry; (5) Remove individual right to privacy; and

WHEREAS the Word of God has a very clear role for women to follow as wife and mother, and a teacher of women and children, and an example of godliness to all, in which they are to be greatly respected, and has a clear role for the man as provider, protector, and leader; and

WHEREAS only eight more states are needed to ratify the ERA to make it the law of the land, and it is the plan of the proponents of this measure to keep introducing it every year in states that have not adopted it until time runs out in 1979;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, met in annual conference in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, June 24–28, 1974, stand in opposition to the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment, that we commend those legislatures which have not

ratified the ERA at this point, and we urge their continued opposition to this amendment.

*Ocean Grove, New Jersey
June 24-28, 1974*