

## **Homosexuality**

WHEREAS the Scriptures clearly denounce in both the Old and New Testaments homosexual practice as that which defiles and corrupts both the individual and his environment; and

WHEREAS the Apostle Paul describes homosexual practice as a mark of a degenerating society and of man's hostility toward God (Rom. 1:24–28); and

WHEREAS there are increasing pressures in some church groups to ordain homosexuals and allowing them to pastor their churches; and

WHEREAS efforts are underway to place the issue of homosexuality in various equal rights bills in such a way that homosexuality would be listed along side religion, national origin, and gender in order to preclude discrimination in employment and housing;

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in annual session in Lakeland, Florida, June 26–30, 1978, oppose the sin of homosexual activity in all its forms and that we encourage the churches to stand forthrightly against this evil not only in the leadership, but also in the membership of our congregations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our churches to have compassion on the practicing homosexuals as ones who need the saving and delivering power of Christ, recognizing that the problem is one of the heart and that repentance from sin and belief and trust in Jesus Christ result in salvation and herein lies the power to overcome any and every sin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commend Anita Bryant for her courageous crusades for Christian morality.

*Lakeland, Florida  
June 26–30, 1978*