

A Warning about Compromise and a Call to Compassion

WHEREAS the purpose of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches is clearly spelled out in our constitution, "To raise a standard of Biblical separation from worldliness, modernism and apostasy; to emphasize the Biblical teaching that a breakdown of the divinely established lines between Bible believers and apostates is unscriptural and to be a voice repudiating cooperation with movements which attempt to unite true Bible believers and apostates in evangelistic and other cooperative spiritual efforts" (Article II); and

WHEREAS the Scripture instructs us to "mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Rom. 16.17, 18); "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly" (2 Thess. 3:6); and

WHEREAS Literature Item 6 records the words of Dr. Robert T. Ketcham, "These and other Scriptures constitute a mandate not subject to option, modification, or compromise on the part of the believer. The General Association of Regular Baptist Churches stands upon these verses in this matter of separation. These Scriptures forbid (1) organic union or cooperation with *unbelievers*; and (2) organic union or cooperation with *believers* who insist upon and practice such union with unbelievers" (p. 2); and

WHEREAS our Association has historically opposed the compromise of neoevangelicalism and ecumenical evangelism while encouraging a gracious spirit as we are instructed in the matter of a brother, "Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother" (2 Thess, 3:15);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 57th Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, on June 27 to July 1, 1988, restate unashamedly our commitment to the Scriptures and the founding document of our Fellowship, that we stand where we always have stood and continue to oppose compromise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm "the official statement of the GARBC in 1936, republished in 1943, "The Attitude of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches" (recorded in Literature Item 6):

"In all the constant and current battle betwixt the hosts of the Lord and the hosts of darkness, both as it affects the church in her mission to a lost and dying world, and the presence of apostate ministers in her pulpits, the General Association believes that the clearest and most essential convictions may still be held by all in its Fellowship, and at the same time we may exercise consideration of and gracious regard for brethren in Christ who, truly loving the Lord and preaching His Word, are unable to see eye to eye with the separatist policy and program of the Association.

Let no pastor of a Convention [or similar] church or any of his people consider that the General Association has an attitude of caustic criticism, bitter antagonism, or of egotistical superiority in pious pride. We are glad where men may lead souls to Christ; we rejoice wherever men may build up the body of Christ in the nurture of the Lord; we rejoice whenever a true missionary who holds to the gospel of unadulterated grace is sent by any board, Baptist or otherwise, to the field to aid in completing the task of world evangelism and hastening unto the day of the appearing of Christ.

Frankly, however, we deplore the fact that souls saved under such ministry are led to give to missions and support a general program which in such large portion is unorthodox, unbiblical and unbaptistic. We believe the cause of Christ in all its purity would be greatly profited if all the pastors and churches who in themselves believe and teach the old historic faith would also insist that every dollar of their money and every effort of their cooperative service should be spent to propagate the same gospel abroad which they believe and cherish at home.

In spite of those who differ with us, we desire to be constantly patient and courteous, and while unswerving in our loyalty to our convictions, nevertheless heedful of the divine injunction 'to be kindly affectioned one to another.'"

*Anaheim, California
June 27–July 1, 1988*