

Contemporary Reconstructionism

WHEREAS some relatively new groups (the Reconstructionists, Kingdom Now Dominionists and the Coalition on Revival or COR) propound a current perversion of the Great Commission that has resulted from the false dream of Christianizing secular culture; and

WHEREAS this false teaching has found expression in history, namely, in such instances as the supposed Christianizing of the Roman Empire during the fourth century rule of the Emperor Constantine, the erroneous support of a state church by Martin Luther, who argued, "The hand that wields the secular sword is not a human hand but the hand of God," and the mistaken theocracy with all its excesses and abuses, established by John Calvin in Geneva in the 16th century; and

WHEREAS the church plays a restraining role in society to be eliminated through the Rapture; but the Reconstructionists have overblown that restraining role into a kind of regenerative role; and

WHEREAS Christians ought to stand against such evils as homosexuality, abortion, pornography and the abuse of drugs, and do all they can to limit godless influence in society; but recognizing that too often social and political activism can become a substitute for saving souls; and

WHEREAS Jesus Christ clearly said, "My Kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36), and the church during its first three centuries never entertained the idea of "reconstructing society";

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 58th annual conference in Columbus, Ohio, on June 26–30, 1989, reaffirm our belief that the Great Commission involves not social and political action aimed at overturning or reforming governments and institutions, but preaching a gospel that transforms individuals and changes their eternal destiny, the messenger being "a sweet savour of Christ in them that are saved, and in them that perish"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we believe a Christian should be characterized by a holy preoccupation with the gospel of Jesus Christ and its power to save sinful souls, not with the affairs of this world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is our abiding conviction that the only hope of the church and the world is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall smite the nations and cleanse this world, lift the curse and establish His Kingdom of light and peace.

*Columbus, Ohio
June 26-30, 1989*