

Biblical Separation

WHEREAS separation has been a Biblical distinctive that has characterized the GARBC from its inception; and

WHEREAS this distinctive has set us apart from other fellowships and church associations; and

WHEREAS this separatist position has been reaffirmed repeatedly by past Councils and messengers from our churches in Annual Conferences; and

WHEREAS our National Representatives have clearly articulated this position; and

WHEREAS all generations of Regular Baptists need to be reminded of this Biblical distinctive;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the 59th Annual Conference of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in Niagara Falls, New York, June 25–29, 1990, reaffirm our agreement with the historic position of separation declared and defended by the founding fathers of our Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express ourselves regarding this doctrine as believing the following:

1. Political separation, i.e., the separation of the church from the state, rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's (Luke 20:25; John 17:12–16; 18:36; Phil. 3:20).
2. Positional (ecclesiastical) separation, i.e., the separation of the church from apostasy and apostates, reproving them rather than recognizing them (Eph. 5:11); rebuking them rather than reasoning with them (2 Tim. 4:2–4; Titus 1:9–16, especially v. 13); refusing them rather than receiving them (2 John 9–11); rejecting them rather than reuniting with them (2 Cor. 6:14–17, especially v. 17; Gal. 1:6–9).
3. Personal separation, i.e., the separation of the believer from the world and its friendships (James 4:4); its fashions (Rom. 12:2); its favor (John 15:18–21; 3:1, 13); its fellowship (2 Cor. 6:14); its federations (2 Cor. 6:15); and from its faiths (2 Cor. 6:16, 17).

4. Practical separation, i.e., the separation by a local church when there is an erring brother, church, mission agency, evangelistic crusade, organization or youth movement that maintains connections with men or movements that do not believe and practice the Word of God; when there is an unresolved problem between brethren (Matt. 18:15–17); when there is unforsaken immorality in the life of a brother (1 Cor. 5:11); when there is unscriptural conduct in the life of a brother (1 Tim. 6:3–5); when there is a disorderly walk on the part of a brother (2 Thess. 3:6, 14); and when there are division and devious doctrines in the practice of a brother (Rom. 16:17, 18); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we renew our efforts to earnestly contend for the faith, to expose unbelief, compromise and theological defection, to encourage any individual group, fellowship and association striving to practice Biblical separation, and to endeavor to keep our own heart and house in order by walking in the paths of righteousness in these days of apostasy, “looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

*Niagara Falls, New York
June 25-29, 1990*