

Evangelical-Roman Catholic Dialogue

WHEREAS a now much-referred-to document called "Evangelicals and Catholics Together," issued in March and signed by conservative Catholics and well-known evangelicals such as Charles Colson and Pat Robertson, urged continued ecumenical efforts to oppose abortion and pornography and promote traditional family values and religious freedom; and

WHEREAS this document also recognized areas of irreconcilable theological differences, such as the infallibility of the Pope, the way to "salvation" and the interpretation of baptism; and

WHEREAS this 25-page statement also has become controversial because it refers to missionary efforts as proselytizing and "sheep stealing";

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 63rd Annual Conference in Bellevue, Washington, on June 25–29, 1994, declare ourselves opposed to any ecumenical dialogue or cooperative effort with Roman Catholics because, even though there may be moral concurrence in viewing and addressing current and societal ills and depravities (and for this we are glad), nevertheless, the greatest sin of society and particularly that of the human heart is unbelief in the sufficiency of Christ's redemptive work and His exclusiveness as only Lord and Savior; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm our belief that the paramount mission of Christ's true church must ever be its gospel call for sinners to enter the straight gate and walk the narrow way through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that compromising dialogue (for whatever reason) with the enemies of the pure gospel of grace can only represent Satan's subtle device to misdirect Christ's true followers from their gospel mission into a preoccupation with political and social concerns (and compromising alliances thereunto), which will only threaten the true message of salvation and blur the ever necessary line of demarcation that must be maintained between the true church of Jesus Christ and pseudo-Christendom.

*Bellevue, Washington
June 25–29, 1994*