

Christian People and Civil Government

WHEREAS a tide of anti-government rhetoric is sweeping our land, including inflammatory, usually unsubstantiated and sometimes outrageous indictments (for example, that the federal government creates tornados to destabilize the citizens); and

WHEREAS horrifying acts of terrorism have been excused as "understandable" by some who promulgate such rhetoric; and

WHEREAS such rhetoric currently emanates primarily from the right side of the political spectrum, rather than from the left side as was the case during the 1960s; and

WHEREAS other zealous individuals of our day have resorted to murder in order to accomplish a good purpose, i.e., stopping abortions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 64th Annual Conference in Toledo, Ohio, on June 24-28, 1995, again commit ourselves to belief in and practice of the Scriptural commands that all Christians, everywhere in the world, throughout this age, must submit to, pay for, pray for, and honor the government under which they live (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; 2 Peter 2:13-17); God permitting a Christian to disobey the government only when that government requires something clearly contrary to the demands of the Bible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recognize the government, not individual believers, as God's instrument to execute wrath upon evil doers (Romans 12:17-13:4); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we deplore the murder of people made in God's image, whether inside a clinic with surgical instruments or outside a clinic with guns, as well as the wanton destruction of property, either private or public; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we will do God's work with His mighty weapons rather than carnal ones (2 Corinthians 10:3-5) and with the gentle spirit His servants should display (2 Timothy 2:24-26), lest we hinder the gospel of Jesus Christ with unbiblical and unnecessarily offensive attitudes and actions.

Toledo, Ohio
June 24-28, 1995