

## **Assisted Suicide**

WHEREAS God has created man and woman in His own image and thus forbids the taking of human life by another (Genesis 9:6; James 2:11); and

WHEREAS assisted suicide, under the guise of mercy (Romans 1 2:9), is the deliberate taking of a person's life who may or may not be dying; and

WHEREAS assisted suicide poses many dangers to the lives of those whose illness, handicap, or physical condition is perceived as burdensome or inconvenient to their caretakers, and rests on the subjective determination of the "quality of life" of our sick, disabled or elderly; and

WHEREAS American society, in which over a million and a half unborn babies are killed each year by abortion, is careening down the slippery slope leading from abortion rights to suicide rights to legalize assisted suicide as the "humane" method to deal with its sick and incapacitated and further demean the sanctity of life;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in Lakeland, Florida, June 22-26, 1996, for the Association's 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, reject assisted suicide as an option for the sick, disabled and dying; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on the medical community to promote the instruction and practice of advanced pain management for the terminally ill and encourage the treatment of those who may be experiencing various symptoms due to their illness, and we also call for the development and promotion of hospice care as a practical, Christlike response to these cries of help (James 2:15, 16); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recommend to our fellowshiping churches that they develop and dedicate compassionate, evangelistic ministries to provide comfort and encouragement to their neighbors who face serious and terminal illness, and by the grace of God, these people may find hope and assurance in Jesus Christ in their time of need.

*Lakeland, Florida  
June 22-26, 1996*