

The Contemporary Charismatic Movement

WHEREAS in the past few years there has developed in Christendom a movement called the "charismatic renewal" which has invaded almost every major denomination, has influenced large numbers of professing Christians, and has become a divisive factor in many local churches; and

WHEREAS leaders of this contemporary phenomenon hold that the church has been impoverished for years because of the absence of certain spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament, particularly the gift of tongues, but that now God is renewing the church and evidencing His blessing upon it by the bestowal of the gift of tongues as well as other gifts; and

WHEREAS some believers have been disturbed by such teaching, have been impressed by the testimonies of those who supposedly have received the baptism, or filling, of the Holy Spirit accompanied by the gift of tongues, have been led to believe that the ability to speak in tongues is evidence of some deeper, more satisfying spiritual experience, and thus have been drawn away from the true Bible-teaching churches into charismatic fellowships; and

WHEREAS people of diverse theological views, from liberalism to fundamentalism, have found common bond in charismatic fellowships, thus promoting an unscriptural ecumenism in disobedience to the Word of God;

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in annual session in Kansas City, Missouri, June 25–29, 1973, affirm our conviction that the current charismatic movement, while containing some who are no doubt genuine and sincere believers, is based upon a misunderstanding of the teaching of Scripture regarding the spiritual gifts, particularly the gift of tongues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we stand firmly opposed to the experience-centered, unscriptural emphasis of the charismatic movement as it is being currently witnessed; and

BE IT FINALLY DECLARED that the gift of tongues was bestowed in New Testament times as a special sign and as an authentication of the apostolic message and that it was never intended as a spiritual gift to be exercised regularly in the churches throughout this dispensation.

Kansas City, Missouri
June 25-29, 1973