

Liberation Theology

WHEREAS a relatively new term “the theology of liberation” has now arrived on the world religious scene with its beginnings in Latin America and now more recently appearing in Europe and in North America; and

WHEREAS this movement has every appearance of gaining momentum in America and around the world, and it is likely that the issues behind this liberation theology will be with us for many years; and

WHEREAS although there seems to be some variation of the theme of this movement, generally the theologians of liberation have a socialist perspective and are convinced that socialism is a necessary precondition for the construction of a just and human society; and

WHEREAS in reality liberation theology is a resurgence of the old social gospel of the liberals and modernists of earlier in our 20th century, which teaches that man needs an improved environment and not personal regeneration of his sinful soul; and

WHEREAS great efforts are being made to promote this liberation theology by both liberal Protestants and liberal Roman Catholics, to say nothing of Marxists; and

WHEREAS by their own admission the theologians of liberation are seeking to promote a theology to liberate oppressed people having declared that theology is secondary, that practice is primary and that the Bible is to be interpreted situationally to fit their wishes rather than literally and in harmony with its context; and

WHEREAS liberation theology declares that man is in the process of bringing about the kingdom of God through socio-political liberation, which thinking is dominated by Marxist ideologies; and

WHEREAS liberation theology declares that the mission of the church is social action, that sin is not seen as individual, but as collective and corporate, that the total depravity of man is not a part of their doctrine, and that sin resides in the oppressive structures from which man must free himself, and in so doing he finds salvation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches at the 50th Annual Conference of the General Association of Regular

Baptist Churches, meeting in Winona Lake, Indiana, June 22–26, 1981, renounce this so called “theology of liberation” as unscriptural and opposed to God's declaration of man's total depravity and need of personal regeneration; and

WE RESOLVE to continue to promote and encourage the Biblical pattern of winning lost souls to the Lord Jesus Christ, of teaching them the whole counsel of God's Word and of establishing them in local, fundamental, Bible-believing churches, which pattern was set forth by the Apostle Paul; and

WE RESOLVE to promote the Biblical truth that when lost humanity comes into a right relationship with God through the new birth that his social, economic, and political status will soon begin to fall into its proper place.

*Winona Lake, Indiana
June 22–26, 1981*