

The Permanence of Marriage

WHEREAS there is a general breakdown in society on the sacredness and permanence of marriage as a lifetime covenant; and

WHEREAS even homes of pastors, missionaries and educators are subject to this heartache; and

INASMUCH as the Scriptures clearly teach that Christian church leaders must be the "husband of one wife" and free from scandal (1 Tim. 3, Titus 1, and Acts 6) as a testimony of purity before an unbelieving world;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches meeting in the 54th Annual Conference in Springfield, Illinois, on June 24–28, 1985, encourage fellowshipping churches to maintain careful and firm policies which prevent divorced people from serving as pastors or deacons in local churches; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that whereas we deplore this scourge of the destruction of the home in our society and churches, we express ourselves as sympathetic to all who unwillingly find themselves caught in this plague and urge our churches to minister to them as the grace of God is sufficient. The Bible says "such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God." (1 Cor. 6:11; cf. Titus 3:3-7, Gal. 6:1).

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