

Reproductive Technology

WHEREAS God, in the beginning, ordained procreation as one of the blessings of a monogamous, heterosexual marriage; and

WHEREAS Adam's rebellion against God brought not only spiritual and physical death but also physical infirmities that include childlessness; and

WHEREAS the problem of infertility has caused many couples to experience childlessness, and we acknowledge God's common grace extended to us through the advancement of modern reproductive technology; and

WHEREAS reproductive technology has advanced significantly and offers many options for conception outside God's original design for natural procreation, and Christians must weigh these options—as they should every decision—by the Word of God; and

WHEREAS certain forms of reproductive technology can compromise the sanctity of human life and sanctity of marriage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the messengers of the 66th Annual Conference of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 21–25, 1997, affirm the use of reproductive technologies as long as they are limited to the eggs and sperm (gametes) of a husband and wife and there is no destruction of any fertilized eggs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we oppose the mistreatment of any "excess" or "defective" embryos through selective abortion, or through embryo experimentation, and we oppose the practice of introducing a third party into the marriage covenant, such as a woman serving as a gestational surrogate on behalf of a childless couple, or an anonymous donor of sperm or eggs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we oppose the cloning of humans and any experimentation on cloned human embryos, since designing the purpose for one's life is the prerogative of God alone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the leaders in our fellowship of churches to become informed and knowledgeable in these matters so that they are equipped to provide Biblically sound counsel to couples as reproductive technologies proliferate.

Grand Rapids, Michigan
June 21-25, 1997