

Resolution

Affirmation Of Biblical Sexuality

WHEREAS, From the beginning, the Bible establishes the basis for sexuality by declaring that human beings are created in God's image as "male and female" ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)) and that "a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." ([Genesis 2:24](#)); and

WHEREAS, Marriage is a covenant relationship and an institution established by God rather than simply a human social construct ([Genesis 2:24](#); [Matthew 19:4-6](#); [Ephesians 5:22-33](#)); and

WHEREAS, Jesus answered questions about marriage by reaffirming this male/female and "one flesh" creation pattern for sexuality ([Matthew 19:4-6](#)); and

WHEREAS, The Apostle Paul based his teaching about marriage upon God's creation order of this one man/one woman relationship and the analogy of Christ and His bride, the Church ([Ephesians 5:29-31](#)); and

WHEREAS, Any sexual behavior outside of this husband/wife marriage covenant relationship is sinful, including any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God. ([Hebrews 13:4](#); [Galatians 5:19-21](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#); [Leviticus 18:22-23](#)); and

WHEREAS, Homosexual behavior is specifically prohibited and condemned in both the Old and New Testaments ([Genesis 19:1-28](#); [Leviticus 18:22](#); [Romans 1:18-25](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#)); and

WHEREAS, Any public policy action normalizing unbiblical sexual behavior or giving homosexual unions the legal status of marriage is diametrically opposed to God's Word; and

WHEREAS, For the first time in history the President of the United States has publicly voiced his personal support of "same-sex marriage"; and

WHEREAS, Several state legislatures have voted to redefine marriage, and certain state courts have overturned laws defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Tar River Baptist Association meeting at Red Bud Baptist Church on Monday, October 27, 2014, Affirm our historic and consistent support of the biblical definition of marriage as the exclusive union of a man and a woman; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage all Christians to be "salt and light" on these issues by exemplifying sexual purity in our lifestyle, speaking prophetically to the culture, and acting redemptively toward individuals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm that pastors should preach the truth of God's word on human sexuality, marriage, purity, and love with all boldness and without fear of reprisal; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we not cease to call on the United States Congress, and State Legislature to urge passage and ratification of a constitutional amendment protecting the time-honored definition of marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Senate not to pass any hate crimes legislation that would effectively discriminate against non-protected classes in the prosecution of violent crimes or criminalize deeply held religious beliefs and speech about homosexuality and other unbiblical sexual practices as is consistent with the righteousness of God; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm the Southern Baptist Convention Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals in its effort to call our churches to engage in loving, redemptive ministry to homosexuals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all people, regardless of race or sexual orientation, are created in the image of God ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)). Therefore we affirm that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity regardless of sinful behavior. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the Christian faith; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we proclaim that those who practice any unbiblical sexual behavior can be forgiven and changed in Christ Jesus, as the Apostle Paul wrote, "...some of you were like this, but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" ([1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#)).