

Resolution on Human Trafficking

WHEREAS human trafficking is slavery with people being forced into labor situations with the United Nations defining it as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation with the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs,” and

WHEREAS experts have noted that human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal activity in the world and one of the most lucrative with estimates at over \$50 billion per year and some estimate in excess of 30 million people exist in slavery worldwide, with the present crisis on our southern border only contributing to the exploitation of both adults and children, and

WHEREAS the problem is clearly large and growing and affecting all people and areas of our country demanding that the church biblically respond and understand our Lord’s value of human life and that He created humans in His own image (Genesis 1:26), and

WHEREAS the largest segment of those falling under the curse and threat of human trafficking are children and the Lord’s fiercest indictments are reserved for those that harm these innocent ones: “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea” and “Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 18:6, 10), and

WHEREAS knowing that God’s Word teaches a general love for our neighbor (Matthew 19:19) as well as love for those in need (Luke 10:25-37), and knowing that Jesus taught, “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12) and Proverbs 31:8-9 expresses for us to “Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction, open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy,” these being Biblical principles that apply to those hurt through the illegal practice of human trafficking,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches assembled at First Baptist Church of Ogden, Boothwyn, PA, on April 12-13, 2021, do hereby take a firm and solid stance against all forms of human trafficking. Human trafficking is a gross indignity against men, women, and children who have been created in God’s image.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we must faithfully pray for those in all types of human bondage. Understanding that “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (James 5:16), we must “Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body” (Hebrews 13:3).

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that we must follow the mandate of Proverbs 31:8, 9 by looking for opportunities to speak out against this gross iniquity and speak up on behalf of those in need. There are many in our churches and in our community completely unaware of the problem of human trafficking and how to help.

WE FINALLY RESOLVE that we must act to help those in bondage, understanding that, as followers of Christ, we have a responsibility to pray and to speak out against human trafficking and modern slavery.