

Resolution on Vaccinations & Fellowship

WHEREAS we believe that human life has transcendent value (Psalm 8; Gen 1:26, 27) because we are all created in God's image, and as such, God's Word is the highest authority by which man is called to abide; and

WHEREAS Christians believe that our lives are in God's hands, even to the timing of our own death (Deuteronomy 32:29; 1 Samuel 2:6; Psalm 132; Hebrews 9:27), and that God wants every believer to appreciate life as He has given it (1 Cor. 4:7; 1 Peter 3:10); and

WHEREAS obedience to the commandment to preserve life is clear, whereby Christians are to seek to honor God by honoring life created in His image as well as to preserve human life within the framework of His revelation, acknowledging jurisdictional responsibilities (Gen. 9:1-6; Rom. 13:1-6); and

WHEREAS Christians are not to live in constant fear of death (Heb. 2:14, 15), since the gospel has removed our fear of death by giving us eternal life through Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS the issue of vaccinations has become a topic over which God's people are dividing and, in some cases, even separating from one another (1 Cor. 1:10; 3:3; 11:18),

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting at Hope Baptist Church in Hanover, PA on September 13-15, 2021, do hereby resolve that a Christian's conscience can properly and validly submit to medical procedures, such as in the taking of tested and proven medications and vaccines, giving thanks to God whose ordering of His creation has allowed such wondrous advancements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that many sound reasons may exist for a Christian to refuse similar treatments, such as when they lack long-term safety information, have destructive and dangerous side-effects, possible unknown impacts upon pre-existing medical conditions, and originate from fetal stem cell lines via abortion.

WE ALSO RESOLVE to respect one another's preferences regarding the issue of vaccination remembering the challenge regarding doubtful disputations (Rom. 14:1-23).

WE FINALLY RESOLVE that the conscience cannot be coerced, or liberties in any other way violated, by submitting to something that is not within the jurisdiction of human government (Rom. 13:3; 1 Peter 2:14).