

## **Resolution in Defense of the Right of Free Speech for Bible-believing Christians**

WHEREAS our founding fathers acknowledged the right of free speech as given by God and, therefore, not to be abridged by any act of government, within certain safety limitations, nor restrained by any political authority, nor intimidated by belligerent mobsters; and

WHEREAS there have been efforts made on behalf of governments to require preview, government approval and exercise censure upon what is being taught in our homes, churches and Christian schools, even though citizens possess freedom of religion, also guaranteed by the Bill of Rights as God-given, to worship according to our consciences and instruct our families and others from the Word of God; and

WHEREAS freedom of speech is a divine mandate, according to the Scriptures (Acts 5:39), to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), to conduct the ministries of the church, to lead our families according to biblical truths and principles and to serve as the salt and light in the world, as commanded in Scripture; and

WHEREAS attacks upon the faithful preaching and teaching of the whole counsel of scripture, regardless of the setting, is an attack upon the authority, truthfulness (John 17:17), trustworthiness and inerrancy of God's Word and a grievous offense to all who acknowledge its final authority,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches assembled this April 9-10, 2018, at Union Baptist Church in Kittanning, Pennsylvania, do hereby resolve that we preach and teach the whole counsel of God's Word as sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16, 17), both in our ministries and in our homes, without fear of, favor toward or deference to any authority contrived by man that presumes to exercise authority over and above what the Bible teaches, no matter what the cost.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we defend the use of the Scripture where fully applicable and as the final authority on every subject that it addresses, because it is inerrant (Psalm 119:89; Matthew 5:18) and infallible (1 Peter 1:23-25) truth. Therefore, we are obligated to faithfully and freely proclaim its sufficiency in application to any and all social, political, educational, interpersonal and spiritual subjects, applying Biblical principles and employing historical examples recorded therein for appropriate instruction. Furthermore, in the light of biblical principles, we have every right and duty to condemn everything the Bible defines as sinful in the sight of God, as well as all those who promote sinful conduct or condone sin by their silence (Romans 1:32).

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we absolutely condemn any and all governmental and

political interference with the exercise of our God-given right of free speech, including the freedom to fulfill every spiritual obligation of the church, to teach the whole counsel of God, to bear witness of the Gospel to every person, publicly or privately, without prohibition or limitations being set by some presumption of superior authority that would infringe upon our rights, given to us by God, not man (Acts 5:29). Furthermore, we refuse to be silenced by intimidation, threats or cowardice, because we are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.