

Resolution: On a Biblical View of Cultural Diversity

WHEREAS a Biblical world view of humanity is necessary to promote better relations among all people groups around the world; and a Biblical understanding of God's creation of mankind

WHEREAS the Biblical explanation of the value of every person rests in the fact that the Almighty God created each soul in the image and likeness of His nature and character (Genesis 1:27), and that the LORD made Adam the progenitor of the entire human race (Acts 17:26); and

WHEREAS the Biblical teaching is clear that there is no difference in the value of a person whether Jew or Gentile, one nation or another nation or people group (Romans 10:12-13; Ephesians 2:17-18); and

WHEREAS wherever these Biblical principles and precepts are disregarded, both nations and people groups have wrongly considered themselves to be superior to other groups, have become alienated from each other, and even fought and shed blood of their fellow men; such racist reactions have been distinguished in part by physical characteristics and cultural diversity but primarily by wicked motivations; and

WHEREAS when the adversary, Satan, tempted Adam and Eve to rebel against God (Genesis 3:1-6), all generations of their descendants since then have sinned; since they are in bondage to a fallen and depraved nature, then such sins as racism erupt in self-centeredness and contentiousness; and

WHEREAS such racism is an innate and a learned behavior passed down through succeeding generations, nevertheless it can be overcome by the life-changing power of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16; 2nd Corinthians 5:17);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers in fellowship with the Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for the 58th Annual Spring Bible Conference hosted by the Grace Baptist Church of Grand Island, Nebraska, on April 10th-11th, 2015, commit ourselves and our congregations to practice the Biblical principles and precepts regarding the treatment of all nations, people groups, and individuals and to:

FOLLOW the example of the Lord Jesus Christ to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40);

OBEY the principle of loving every person and treating them with respect (Philippians 2:1-4; Philemon 16; Jeremiah 39:15-18); to reject racism in any fashion; and to welcome all peoples in Christ to worship together;

SHARE the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ with all peoples regardless of cultural backgrounds (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8) with the result that "a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues [will] stand before the throne, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Revelation 7:9-10).

(composed by Pastors Stanley Manus and Edwin Anderson, with recommendations from the Council of 8)