

## Appreciation

Approved by the messengers at the 183<sup>rd</sup> South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church, Columbia, SC, on 11/11/2003

WHEREAS, The messengers to the 183<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention have enjoyed the kind hospitality of the people of Columbia; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we acknowledge our debt of gratitude to the members, staff and pastor of First Baptist Church and to Baptist churches and associations in the Columbia area for the many courtesies, services, and accommodations that have helped facilitate this meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express our appreciation to the South Carolina Baptist Convention officers, the convention staff, and the various committees, platform personalities, groups, musicians, singers, speakers, and worship leaders for their able and inspirational labor among us and leadership before us; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we offer sincere thanks to our Heavenly Father for the opportunity of service and the joy of fellowship with each other in this gathering of South Carolina Baptists on November 11-12, 2003. To Him be the glory now and forever.

## **Baptism by Immersion**

Approved by the messengers at the 183<sup>rd</sup> South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church, Columbia, SC, on 11/11/2003

WHEREAS, Water baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit was commanded by Jesus Christ of all believers in Matthew 28:19; and

WHEREAS, The mode of baptism by immersion is supported by the meaning of the Greek verb *baptizo* which means “to immerse” or “dip under;” and

WHEREAS, The mode of baptism by immersion is derived from the imagery of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in Romans 6:3—4; and

WHEREAS, The proper subjects of Christian baptism are believers who have made a personal confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (Acts 2:38 & 41, 8:38); and

WHEREAS, There is a preponderance of evidence from the early church fathers and ecclesiastical writings that baptism was by immersion; and

WHEREAS, Our own history as Baptists has been one of steadfast commitment to baptism by immersion despite persecution; and

WHEREAS, Baptist confessional statements from the earliest to the present have consistently declared baptism by immersion to be the only biblical mode of baptism; and

WHEREAS, Some Baptist churches have chosen to neglect the necessity of baptism by immersion for local church members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 183<sup>rd</sup> South Carolina Convention meeting in Columbia, November 11—12, 2003, affirm that baptism by immersion is uniquely the only biblical, historical, and proper mode of Christian baptism; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we declare churches of the South Carolina Baptist Convention that no longer require baptism by immersion for membership have disobeyed scripture and have abandoned our Baptist heritage; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge churches that do not require baptism by immersion to reestablish baptism by immersion for local church membership; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That churches that reject the historic practice of baptism by immersion for all members have chosen not to be in good standing with the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

## **Expanded Catawba Gambling**

Approved by the messengers at the 183<sup>rd</sup> South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church, Columbia, SC, on 11/11/2003

WHEREAS, South Carolina Baptists have historically opposed gambling in all forms; and

WHEREAS, The Catawba Indian Tribe of York County agreed to the provisions set forth in the Catawba Indian Claims Settlement Act (Title 27, Chapter 16, SC Code of Laws) approved by the state of South Carolina and federal elected officials; and

WHEREAS, The enacted Catawba Indian Claims Settlement Act grants governing rights over the tribal gambling on and off the reservation to the State of South Carolina and limits the scope and technology involved in the two permitted gambling venues; and

WHEREAS, The Catawba Indian Tribe of York County seeks to open a high-stakes, electronic bingo operation in Santee, Orangeburg County, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Federal legislation presently being considered would remove any new location from state regulations, thus opening a potential floodgate of expanded gambling including electronic devices similar to video poker and slot machines networked with all other electronic tribal games and high-stakes bingo; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 183<sup>rd</sup> South Carolina Convention meeting in Columbia, November 11—12, 2003, again express our vigorous opposition to gambling in all forms; and be it further

RESOLVED, That members of South Carolina Baptist churches be encouraged to contact their federal and state officials asking them to honor The Catawba Indian Claims Settlement Act by refusing to pursue any legislation placing the Catawba Indians under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this convention urges the pastors and lay leaders of the churches to continue to be aware of the dangers of legalized gambling and to further educate their congregations and the public on the destructive nature of gambling (1 Timothy 6:9—11); and be it further

RESOLVED, That all Christians reaffirm and reassert their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to provide and meet the economic, physical, emotional and spiritual needs (Proverbs 3: 5,6) and disregard the false hope of economic growth through gambling (Matthew 6: 19—24); and be it finally

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded immediately to the Governor, members of the General Assembly, and South Carolina's elected federal officials as a continued demonstration of our resolve and as an encouragement to them to stand firm in support of the existing Catawba Indian Claims Settlement Act.

## **Prayer for Elected Officials**

Approved by the messengers at the 183<sup>rd</sup> South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church, Columbia, SC, on 11/11/2003

WHEREAS, Increasing worldwide tensions and unrest threaten our national welfare and security; and

WHEREAS, The Kingdom of God is above all, yet to influence all in terms of the eternal and sovereign will of God and that the church is always to pray for all peoples; and

WHEREAS, Our duty as Christian citizens is to pray for the authorities God has placed over us according to 1 Timothy 2:1—5; and

WHEREAS, Jesus taught the absolute necessity of prayer and that no work of God is possible apart from prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:20-21); and

WHEREAS, It is recognized historically that spiritual awakening has come in similar periods as the result of unified, explicit, extraordinary prayer on the part of all God's people and acknowledging that prayer is indeed our greatest need and most powerful resource; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we complement our prayers for the nation with a commitment to be more actively involved at every level of the nation's system of government; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Christians everywhere covenant to pray consistently for worldwide spiritual awakening in our time; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 183<sup>rd</sup> South Carolina Convention meeting in Columbia, November 11—12, 2003, encourage all who claim Jesus Christ as Lord to join us in praying that God will grant our elected officials wisdom as they read His Word and strength as they lead our nation.

## **Support of the Federal Marriage Amendment**

Approved by the messengers at the 183<sup>rd</sup> South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church, Columbia, SC, on 11/11/2003

WHEREAS, Mankind, both male and female, were created in the image of God and were created to be a Divinely intended complement of one another (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:18-23); and

WHEREAS, Marriage between one man and one woman was instituted by the Creator God Himself and is not the invention of government or any other manmade institution (Genesis 2:24); and

WHEREAS, Marriage was perfectly designed by the Creator to insure the propagation of the human race through the sexual union between a man and a woman and that this marital union was instituted by God Himself to populate the earth (Genesis 1:28); and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ, the Word who became flesh, spoke of the sacredness of marriage as being a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman where these two individuals become one flesh (Matthew 19:4-6); and

WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures repeatedly affirm the unique sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman as the God-ordained place for the rearing of children (Deuteronomy 6:6-8), with this family unit being the very foundation for civilized society; and

WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures refer to any sexual intimacy apart from the marriage union, whether it be heterosexual or homosexual, as being sin in need of forgiveness (1 Corinthians 6:9-11); and

WHEREAS, Homosexuality is clearly forbidden in the Holy Scriptures as an appropriate sexual expression and is referred to as an abomination in the eyes of the Creator (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13); and the Scriptures condemn those who give their approval to such abhorrent activity (Romans 1:26-27); and

WHEREAS, Homosexuality is contrary to the nature of creation itself and stands contrary to the Creator's intended purpose for the institution of marriage and the culture of our nation appears to desire to normalize homosexuality and even homosexual unions and so-called marriages; and

WHEREAS, Various religious institutions in our nation and around the world have abandoned the clear teaching of Scripture and have sought to make homosexuality an acceptable alternative lifestyle, even for those in the clergy, and God, in His unchanging nature, has not and will not deviate from His clearly intended purpose for the creation of man and woman and the marriage institution; and

WHEREAS, There are members of Congress who are seeking to clearly define marriage as the union between one man and one woman through the Federal Marriage Amendment, which is consistent with human history and God's created order; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we the messengers to the 183<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention solemnly affirm the sanctity of the Biblical institution of marriage between one man and one woman, and steadfastly oppose any attempt by government to change this clear and concise definition of marriage; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the messengers of this convention prayerfully and purposefully support the Federal Marriage Amendment and any legislative efforts to define marriage as the God-ordained relationship between one man and one woman, as well as to encourage singles to remain celibate; therefore, be it finally

RESOLVED, That we encourage all religious groups, denominations, all other Bible-believing Christians, and society at large to support the Biblical institution of marriage against any and all attacks from homosexual activists, and others who would seek to destroy the sacred institution of marriage and the family.