

The GARBC in a Postmodern Era

PREAMBLE: As western Europe transitioned from the Dark Ages to the Enlightenment (modernity), so the United States since the 1960s has experienced a transition from modernity to postmodernity. The resulting clash of these two worldviews has left many, even in the church, unsettled and uncertain. This resolution is an attempt to expose and encourage an appropriate position and practice for the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

WHEREAS until recent years the church in our society has ministered to a culture that believed that some measure of absolute truth existed and could be found; and

WHEREAS in recent years the new worldview, often identified as postmodernity, has rapidly infiltrated and dominated the mindset of our culture; and

WHEREAS postmodernity at its root is the belief that truth is not discovered but created, i.e., there is no known standard by which we can judge truth claims, values, religions, or standards; and

WHEREAS postmodernity, with its belief that no truth can be known, spawns a variety of unbiblical "isms," including social pragmatism, religious pluralism, and multiculturalism; and

WHEREAS postmodernity is in direct conflict with Biblical authority (the Bible is divinely revealed and authoritative), Biblical absolutes (the Bible reveals unchanging standards of right and wrong), and Biblical apologetics (the Bible is the basis for the defense of our faith); and

WHEREAS the outgrowth of postmodernity is:

- ostracism, as the church is seen by our society as abnormal and unreasonable;
- opposition, as the church is seen as intolerant to lifestyles inconsistent with Biblical truth; and
- opportunity to communicate an absolute message in a world where there is no solid basis for determining truth.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in annual session in

Bellevue, Washington, June 26–30, 1999, live as God’s people in an increasingly secular and ungodly age.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED REGARDING:

Revelation—that we renew our commitment to the Bible as absolute and authoritative truth for our lives and the lives of those in the world in which we live.

Personal holiness—that we remain true to God’s standards for holy living in spite of the pressures to tolerate diversity and alternative lifestyles.

Ecclesiology—that we revitalize our commitment to the local church as a body of baptized believers with a mission to make disciples by bringing divinely revealed truth to the world.

Evangelism—that we do not accommodate the gospel to a postmodern mindset but renew our commitment to a morally based gospel of which we are not ashamed but can confidently proclaim, knowing it is “the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16).

Apologetics—that we realize we cannot defend our faith with rationalism, since postmodernity has abandoned rationalism as the basis for truth; but we must renew our commitment to presuppositional apologetics, using the Bible as the basis for our defense of the faith and changed lives as the evidence of its power.

*Bellevue, Washington
June 26–30, 1999*