

# Resolution: Violence Fills Our Land

Violence fills our land. Massacres. School killings. Humanity in rebellion against God lives without hope, without God in this world.

Despite the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, the deaths of millions of unborn babies mount, with the means to an abortion now as close as the local pharmacy in many localities.

Our culture not only inflicts pain and suffering but entertains itself through graphic cinematic depictions of murder and death.

The heathen rage not only against God but against one another, breathing out threats and slaughter indiscriminately.

Even the Body of Christ has been touched by violence. Published reports tell of sexual abuse perpetrated on people by “hireling” pastors or those in spiritual authority. These reports communicate the concealment rather than the Biblical address of abuse. For, despite credible accusations of such abuse laid at the feet of denominational authorities, religious leaders covered up verified reports of sexual abuse and misconduct by pastors.

Yet God is full of grace. He brings comfort to a sin-sick world. In Christ is hope, healing, and safety.

As an association of churches, we affirm our belief in the sanctity of human life—the unborn, the school-age child, the physically and mentally disabled, the elderly—of all humanity. We decry all expressions of violence and the unjust taking of human life. We particularly deplore the actions of religious predators and the sinful response of church leadership to delay, deny, and disbelieve verified reports of abuse.

Yet today, despite rampant violence, we are confident in and proclaim the wonderful gospel of Christ to all, to the perpetrator and the victim alike.

We hold firmly to the gospel of Jesus Christ, that God’s grace brings salvation to all strata of society and that God’s grace radically changes the sinner’s life for temporal and eternal good. We believe that God’s grace further teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age. This we do in light of Christ’s imminent return, which is our blessed hope. God’s grace produces those zealous in life with God, not in pursuit of violence and death, but in display of good works as God’s peculiar people (Titus 2:11–14).

Our wicked world is without hope and without God (Ephesians 2:12) and totally excluded from righteousness, peace, and joy (Romans 14:17). So we today again affirm that our world’s only hope is not found in any legislative body but in the pages of Scripture (Psalm 119:66) and in the gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 1:15). In the Scriptures sinful humanity learns of God’s grace in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:17), Who has borne the penalty for every act of violence in His death at Calvary. God can and does forgive the worst of sinners, including us.

We decry the acts of violence that fill our land, asking that God will provide comfort and healing grace to each affected family and community.

We urge local churches to minister to the temporary and eternal needs of those victimized by violence of every variety.

We pray for political leaders to lead wisely in address of the culture’s descent into sin.

We purpose to be the ministers of Christ, providing balm to the sin-damaged soul. We believe that God can, does, and will bring beauty from ashes (Isaiah 61:3) by the preaching of the gospel and the work of the Spirit of God (Titus 3:3–7).

We further pray that in our violence-filled land, the churches of our fellowship will flourish in making disciples for Christ, assisting in the recovery of lives ruined by sin to Christ’s honor and glory (1 Corinthians 6:9–11).

This we resolve as the messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting together in annual conference June 27–30, 2022, at Calvary Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.