

## Resolution on Marriage Between Man and Woman

Whereas, God created marriage for the good of His creation (Matt 19:4-7). Scriptural Truth followed by centuries of tradition, reminds us that the union of one man and one woman is much more than a contract (Gen 1). It is a sacred, lifelong union that creates an intimate community of life and life that, in turn, supports all of society: and

Whereas, same-sex unions are not the same as opposite-sex unions. To believe otherwise is to ignore the uniqueness of each gender's design and undermines marriage (Gen 2:18). The breakdown or weakening of the institution of marriage has devastating moral, spiritual, economic, and social effects on the whole society. Marriage protects children by giving them an opportunity to grow in up the ideal environment: with a married mom and dad. Knowingly depriving children of that opportunity exposes our children to a great social experiment that is in no one's best interest: and

Whereas, marriage mirrors God's relationship with us, thus completing, enriching, and perpetuating humanity (Eph 5). Any other pairing disrupts that relationship and is not marriage. As ministers of the Gospel, we are compelled to defend the institution of marriage as created by God- in church and in culture: and

Whereas, as children of God, equally possessing the human dignity of being created in His image, our stand for marriage in no way disparages others- even if they disagree with us. As recipients of God's grace, we are committed to demonstrating the love of Christ to those living the homosexual lifestyle: therefore,

We resolve, the messengers of the thirty eighth annual meeting of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, commit to pray and humbly work toward a just resolution of this issue, which is of grave importance to the well being of the human family: and

We resolve, as Christians, we cannot ignore our duty to speak the Truth to culture (Matt 5:13-16). As citizens of West Virginia, we avail ourselves of the opportunity to affirm the historic, legal, and reasonable definition of marriage by supporting and promoting an amendment to the state constitution: and

We resolve, we will strongly encourage Christians throughout West Virginia to engage in the civic process in defense of marriage and in support of the government's leadership in defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman (Rom 13): and

We resolve, we commit to earnestly and regularly pray for our governor, our state senators and delegates, judges, and all of the leaders set in positions of human authority over us (I Tim 2:1-2). We pray for God's wisdom to be imparted to each of them as they work to strengthen marriages in this state: and

Finally, be it resolved, we believe the union of one man and one woman, in the institution of marriage is foundational to our society and cannot be compared with any other union.

Respectably Resolution Committee;

Mary Henson  
Frank Pilcher

Russell Talley  
Dan Howard

Calvin Doyle  
Rodney Hale