

Resolution on Church and State

Whereas a dangerous trend has been adopted at all levels of government through its increasing encroachment upon the church with a variety of laws, rulings, taxation and infringements upon where, how and when a church may worship, as well as conduct its own internal affairs as they relate to church ministries and personnel, including missions, education and benevolence, as demonstrated by the recent pro-abortion health care mandate, and that the present administration continues to favor other religious views that restrict, limit and oppose the free practice of the true Christian faith; and

Whereas the public discourse and political discussions found in the liberal media are clearly anti-Christian, as seen in their discussions of sexual orientation, moral absolutes, the freedom of religion, the definitions of life and death, the redefinition of marriage and their growing use of hate speech against the principles and practices of biblical Christianity; and

Whereas movements to remove "In God We Trust" from the currency and the public sector and the banning of the public display of the Ten Commandments on government properties all contribute to a growing "Christophobia" being fostered among the general population; and

Whereas God in His grace allowed our country to be founded on the great principle of religious freedom that has historically given all religions the same freedom to practice within the bounds of law that is set by God, and the Scriptures teach a clear separation of authority between the church and temporal government limiting the power of government over the church as well as the church over government;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America meeting in conference, June 26-28, 2012, state clearly our concern about the growing interference of government in church ministries.

Be further resolved that our brothers and sisters in Christ be informed about the biblical and historical contrast to the present trend of government violations of the precious religious freedom God has given us and that we use every medium to speak, publish and proclaim the principles of higher law found in the Bible, as well as actively participate in the public discourse on both the general and specific areas of this debate.

Be it further resolved that in this important election year, we carefully investigate the positions of candidates on these issues and vote accordingly, as well as encourage others to use their God-given opportunity to express the will of the God of Glory in these matters through ballot and unhindered free speech.