

Resolution on the Gospel and Prejudice

Whereas Scripture affirms that there is only one human race, created male and female, with each person made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and

Whereas all persons (the exception being our Lord, who had no earthly father) are the direct offspring and descendants of the original parents, Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:20), as well as direct descendants of one of Noah's three sons, Shem, Japheth, or Ham (Gen. 9:1, 7; 10-11), and

Whereas humanity was divided by families according to language by the sovereign action of God in response to their willful rebellion against the mandate to fill the earth (Gen. 11:5-9), thus showing Omnipotent God as the source of all languages, and resulting in confusion, and

Whereas the confusion brought the scattering of families, resulting in isolation, distrust, and fear, as well as the establishment of customs, norms, expectations and development of homogeneous culture according to the language of the group (i.e. Chaldeans, Egyptians, Hittites, Canaanites, etc.). This emphasis explains the differences between people and nations as cultural, regional or national, and not biological or racial, and

Whereas because of sin's inherent idolatry expressed within each culture refuses to love God and love neighbor as fellow image bearers (Deut. 6:4; Lev. 19:18; Mt. 22:37-40) resulting in destructive damage to human relationships (Gal. 5:19-21) as seen in prejudice, slavery, abuse, strife, enmities, unloving behavior, brutality, war, pride, and cultural superiority (John 4:9; 2 Tim. 3:2-4), and

Whereas the majority people group often determine the prevailing customs, traditions and expectations within a culture, discriminating against minority people groups, and have at times throughout history, enforced their will violently upon minority people groups (examples being treatment of 1st Nations of North America, slavery around the world, the Turkish massacre of the Armenian people of early 1900's, and the civil war in Yugoslavia), and

Whereas the Gospel message is to be proclaimed worldwide to make disciples of all nations or ethnicities (Mt. 28:19-20), without prejudice against people, nor neglect of minority ethnicities (Acts 1:8, Rom. 1:14-16),

Be it therefore resolved that we, the messengers of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting on April 24-25, 2017 at Hope Baptist Church, Hanover, PA, do recognize that the Gospel is for all people of every people group, and we rejoice in the reach and the power of the Gospel (Rev. 5:9-13; 7:9), and

Be it further resolved that we will work to see our churches reach people of all the people groups within our given locations across the state,

Be it further resolved that when new believers from ethnicities or cultures outside of our predominant culture become a part of our fellowship, we will not pridefully demand conformity of approach or tradition, but will strive to love one another (Rom.15:2), and

Be it further resolved to examine our own hearts and root out pride or superiority rooted in our ethnic or cultural background that may be a hindrance or offense to other brothers with whom we seek to minister in cross cultural settings, seeking to avoid and eliminate a prevailing sense of superiority in ministry.