

Roman Catholic Power

In view of the attitude shown by the Roman Catholic Church toward Protestant churches and missionary endeavor, wherever they are in the majority, such as is expressed by:

1. The rigid restrictions placed by the predominantly Roman Catholic governments upon the Protestant testimony in Spain and Columbia, South America;
2. The agreement of the government of Spain and Columbia with the Vatican in giving exclusive authority over the territories and lives of people;

AND, believing that any religious system which requires the force of government behind it in order to secure its success and position thereby evidences its inherent weakness and lack of God's approval;

AND, in view of the unrestricted religious freedom granted to the Roman Catholic Church in the United States and other predominantly Protestant countries of the world;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED at this conference of Regular Baptist Churches that

1. We reaffirm our historic Baptist principles of religious freedom for all peoples, both to believe and propagate the tenets of their faith;
2. That we likewise stand firm in our conviction that religious freedom demands complete separation of Church and State and believe that such concordats arrived at with the Vatican being in direct conflict with this principle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we petition the U.S. State Department to use its good office to influence these governments to desist from such practices, and that we call upon our government to express emphatic disapproval to the Church of Rome for engaging in Protestant persecutions in Spain and South America.

*Chicago, Illinois
May 10-13, 1954*