

## **Separation of Church and State**

WHEREAS in the United States today there is increasing pressure to involve the government in the affairs of the Church, and there are increasingly insistent demands for government aid to parochial schools; and

WHEREAS the evils of a union of Church and State are apparent in a country like Spain where full religious liberty is denied minority religious groups; and

WHEREAS there is a loss of conviction on the part of many Americans as to the value and necessity of a complete separation of the Church and State; and

WHEREAS the struggle for religious liberty in America was attended with great suffering on the part of conscientious Christians, many of whom were Baptists who opposed the State churches in Massachusetts and Virginia; and

WHEREAS the cause of orthodox Christianity and democratic government have both flourished in the climate of religious liberty;

BE IT RESOLVED that the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches reaffirm its historic conviction that the Church and State have no right to impinge on one another's authority or to become involved in affairs distinctive to each, and that we resist all efforts to blur the lines that separate the two.

*June 22-26, 1959  
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