

The Civil Rights Act of 1984

WHEREAS the constitution of the United States guarantees freedom of religion for all Americans; and

WHEREAS the freedom of religion is designed to permit the operation of churches, Christian schools and Christian colleges without interference by the local, state or federal government; and

WHEREAS there is presently before Congress a bill entitled "The Civil Rights Act of 1984" which would limit the authority of private colleges, including Christian colleges, to govern their own affairs; and

WHEREAS it is the opinion of many legal scholars who are involved in the battle to preserve religious freedom in our country that this bill goes beyond even the stated purpose, and would permit the federal government to interfere and control the operation of churches, Christian schools and Christian colleges by subjecting them to all rules and regulations of the federal government concerning sex, race, age and handicapped discrimination; and

WHEREAS "The Civil Rights Act of 1984" is not merely a bill dealing with discrimination, but is instead an attempt to make the freedom of religion guaranteed by the United States constitution subject to the dictates of the federal bureaucracy and the federal courts; and

WHEREAS some of the problems that would be brought about include the issues of ordination of women, homosexual church members and staff, as well as mandatory quotas of minorities with regard to student enrollment, staff makeup and church membership; and

WHEREAS every attempt to limit or destroy our precious freedom of religion must be opposed by every means available;

BE IT RESOLVED that the messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in Seattle, Washington, June 25–29, 1984, go on record as opposed to "The Civil Rights Act of 1984" as a very serious threat to the freedom of religion as it relates to individual churches, Christian schools and Christian colleges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the members of Association churches to contact their elected Representatives and Senators and the President of the United States and urge them to do all in their power to insure that this bill does not become the law of the land.

Seattle, Washington
June 25—29, 1984