

The Charismatic Movement

WHEREAS the Scriptures are the sole source of the New Testament church's doctrine and deportment, and since we believe that the fundamentals of the faith formulate the minimum of doctrinal unity necessary for Christian fellowship, and since we also believe that the doctrinal distinctives as historically held by orthodox Christians are essential for evangelistic cooperation between churches; and

WHEREAS the charismatic movement is based on an unscriptural interpretation of the ministry of and the filling of the Holy Spirit; and

WHEREAS this movement views the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a definite post-conversion experience, usually attended by tongues speaking; and

WHEREAS traditional denominational groups of liberal persuasion have united with these charismatic adherents around a faulty experience-centered doctrine rather than a true Biblically-based experience; and

WHEREAS such charismatics have remained within their apostate denominations with a renewed interest and love for their churches and clergy;

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, met in annual conference in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, June 24–28, 1974, repudiate the current charismatic movement as being a genuine work of the Holy Spirit because it is not based upon a proper understanding of the Scriptures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the pastors and the teachers of our churches to declare clearly the Scriptural command to be filled continually with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18) and to expound the proper usages of spiritual gifts.

*Ocean Grove, New Jersey
June 24–28, 1974*