

Article addressing the *Resolution Denouncing Racism*

It is an honor and a privilege to serve the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (Convention). The members of the 2017 Resolutions and Memorials Committee (Committee) are very cognizant of this great honor and privilege. We are humbled that the Convention would choose us to review any resolutions submitted and trust us to decide which resolutions should be presented to the messengers for consideration.

This year the Committee strongly feels that that the Convention needs to address a critical and perennial issue in our culture, and particularly in our own state. With the recent racially driven events in Charlottesville, Virginia, and even more locally in Durham, the committee feels that the Convention needs to formally express a biblically grounded opinion on the cultural issue of racism in America.

The Committee is providing this article along with the release of the proposed resolution with the hopes of providing additional explanation. It is easy for individuals to draw incomplete conclusions when background information is lacking. The members of the Committee want N.C. Baptists to know that we have had long, passionate discussions about the wording of this resolution. The Committee carefully weighed every single word in a labored effort to be certain that we are not conveying the wrong message to the world, but that ultimately the message of hope and love found within the gospel is clearly communicated to the world.

The Committee consists of men that love North Carolina and men that love these United States of America, that respect history and value clear teaching about the history of nature – both our nation’s successes and our failures. However, as citizens of heaven, every single member of the Committee understands the mission of God to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. The expectation of our Lord, expressed in Acts 1:8, includes not only being witnesses in every geographical area, but among every people group, as well.

As believers, our ultimate allegiance and obedience is to that of the Lord Jesus and His kingdom. Just as Paul addressed the churches of Galatia concerning the cultural and historical practice of circumcision, we too believe that we should not allow anything in our culture to hinder our witness of the love and grace of Jesus.

In addition, as Paul instructed the believers in Rome, we should be willing to set aside anything that creates stumbling blocks for the gospel and the advancement of the kingdom of God. We implore you, brothers and sisters, for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and for the glory of God, please hear our hearts and consider the priority of the gospel and affirm this resolution in November.