

**2010 Resolutions Committee Report
Southern Baptists of Texas Convention**

**Resolution One:
On Racial Reconciliation**

WHEREAS, the message of the gospel is that through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, God redeems all who repent from sin and believe in Him, irrespective of ethnicity, language or culture (Romans 1:16; Acts 10:34-35); and

WHEREAS, God's covenant through time has been to bring blessing to the nations (Genesis 12:3; Isaiah 56:7-8; Ephesians 3:6); and

WHEREAS, the explicit result of the gospel is that in salvation there is no longer Jew nor Greek, and all have access through one Spirit to the Father (Ephesians 2:14-18; Galatians 3:27-29; Romans 2:26-29); and

WHEREAS, God will receive a multitude from all nations, tribes, peoples and languages to worship Him (Revelation 7:9-10); and

WHEREAS, the Great Commission is a command to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19); and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 400 identified ethno-linguistic groups in the state of Texas which need to hear the gospel; now, therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, assembled in Corpus Christi, Texas, November 15-16, 2010, affirm that God has a plan for every race to be redeemed by the Father and reconciled to Himself and to one another; and be it further

RESOLVED, we express our love for all people of every ethnicity; and be it further

RESOLVED, we condemn any action which is racist in nature or intent; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage churches and individuals to foster an atmosphere of reconciliation between races; and be it further

RESOLVED, we commend continuing efforts to make the representative diversity of our convention be reflected in convention committee and leadership structures; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage churches to consider ways in which their church committee and leadership structures can accurately reflect the ethnic diversity within their congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, we acknowledge and affirm the work of churches performing multi-ethnic church ministry in Texas; and be it finally

RESOLVED, we encourage churches to increase the ways in which they minister to all ethnicities so that God will be glorified through the praises of the multitude from every nation, tongue, tribe and people.

**Resolution Two:
On Life-Affirming Stem Cell Research**

WHEREAS, God created us in His image (Genesis 2:7), and thus all human life has value (Jeremiah 1:5); and

WHEREAS, life begins at the moment of conception (Psalm 139:13-16) and continues until God's appointed time for life to end (Jeremiah 29:11); and

WHEREAS, there is currently no documented treatment nor cure derived from embryonic stem cell research, which destroys human life with the destruction of human embryos; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shinya Yamanaka while at Kyoto University in 2007 discovered a method of transforming somatic cells into induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells—thus making embryo-destructive research unnecessary; now, therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, assembled in Corpus Christi, Texas, November 15-16, 2010, reaffirm our position against embryo-destructive research, which is the taking of human life; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage our elected officials to promote adult stem cell research and defund embryo-destructive research; and be it finally

RESOLVED, we commit to speak on behalf of the precious unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.

**Resolution Three:
On Gambling**

WHEREAS, the gambling industry spends massive amounts of advertising money, luring many people into gambling addiction; and

WHEREAS, one in thirty citizens gambles compulsively, resulting in serious consequences for families; and

WHEREAS, six percent of teenagers are already addicted to gambling; and

WHEREAS, statistics in gambling communities show a crime rate eighty-four percent higher than the national average, and some gambling communities have experienced up to a seventy percent decline in retail sales; and

WHEREAS, annual proceeds from the Texas Lottery pay for only ten days of the state's yearly educational costs, although advocates convinced voters that educational costs in Texas would be significantly funded; and

WHEREAS, 2011 state budget demands will test the resolve of elected officials to provide for our needs without succumbing to the temptation to depend upon revenues from casino gambling, Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) and expanded lotteries to meet legitimate budget needs; and

WHEREAS, gambling is the attempt to meet one's needs through chance while Scripture encourages us to build resources through labor (Proverbs 13:11); and

WHEREAS, gambling further burdens those already in financial difficulty; and

WHEREAS, 1 Timothy 6:9-10 says, "But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs," and Proverbs 15:27 says, "He who profits illicitly troubles his own house;" now, therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, assembled in Corpus Christi, Texas, November 15-16, 2010, declare our opposition to gambling, specifically to the expansion of gambling in Texas; and be it further

RESOLVED, we call upon our elected officials to reject any state budget that relies on monies from gambling to fund legitimate state responsibilities; and be it finally

RESOLVED, we encourage our churches in their continued efforts to educate their members about the dangers of gambling and minister to those caught in gambling addictions.

Resolution Four: On Sex-Trafficking

WHEREAS, sex-trafficking is the act of defrauding, coercing and deceiving victims into acts of sexual depravity and slavery; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice predicts that each year more than 293,000 minors are at risk of ending up in childhood sexual exploitation in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, twenty percent of these victims are brought illegally to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the average entry age of these children into sexual exploitation is between eleven and fourteen; and

WHEREAS, these criminal acts incapacitate victims by permanently scarring them physically and emotionally—and also result in the deaths of thousands; and

WHEREAS, the ever-expanding and increasingly mainstream pornography industry—which seeks ever-younger children for its lucrative films, videos and printed materials—drives the demand for child sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, this brutal sex-trafficking industry generates more than \$32 billion dollars each year for pimps and madams who serve as slave masters and repeatedly sell the bodies of children for personal enrichment; and

WHEREAS, this crime, typically committed out of the sight of caring people, goes largely unrecognized and unreported by our communities; and

WHEREAS, Proverbs 24:11-12 says, “Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, ‘Behold, we did not know this,’ does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?”; now, therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, we, the messengers to the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention, assembled in Corpus Christi, Texas, November 15-16, 2010, call on churches to make available church ministry programs that educate members about this insidious problem—including awareness of the vulnerability of some children, the recruiting methods of these criminals, and the best policies for crime prevention, protection of vulnerable children and the prosecution of the perpetrators (Luke 17:2); and be it further

RESOLVED, we advertise the national sex-trafficking hotline reporting number: 1-888-3737-888; and be it finally

RESOLVED, we encourage churches to support victim rescue and restoration ministries, demonstrating the spirit of Psalm 82:3-4, “Give justice to the weak and the fatherless: maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Resolution Five: On Adoption and Orphan Care

WHEREAS, the Old Testament reveals God as a “father to the fatherless” (Psalm 68:5), and contains approximately forty references to the “fatherless” including the commands to “treat the fatherless correctly” (Exodus 22:22) and to “bring justice to the fatherless” (Isaiah 1:17); and

WHEREAS, God adopts Israel as “his firstborn son” (Exodus 4:22), uses Moses, rescued through adoption (Exodus 2:10), to lead Israel out of Egypt and compares the plight of the fatherless to that of Israel while in Egyptian bondage (Deuteronomy 24:17-21); and

WHEREAS, in the gospel, we have received the “Spirit of adoption” whereby we are no longer slaves to the bondage of sin but are now beloved children of God and fellow heirs with Christ (Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:3-6; Romans 8:14-23); and

WHEREAS, Scripture defines pure and undefiled religion as “to visit orphans and widows in their affliction” (James 1:27); and

WHEREAS, the Psalmist pleads for the lives of the weak and needy (Psalm 72:12-14), and Jesus welcomes the little ones (Luke 18:15-17) and commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31); and

WHEREAS, evil forces have warred against infants and children from Pharaoh to Molech to Herod, and now, through the horrors of a divorce culture, an abortion industry, and the global plagues of disease, starvation and warfare; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention has passed no fewer than seven resolutions affirming the sanctity of all human life, born and unborn; and

WHEREAS, upward of 150 million orphans now live without families in orphanages, group homes and placement systems in North America and around the world; now, therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention assembled in Corpus Christi, Texas, November 15-16, 2010, express our commitment to join our Father in seeking mercy for orphans; and be it further

RESOLVED, we call on all families to consider whether God may be calling them to provide foster care or adopt; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage our pastors and church leaders in their continuing efforts to preach and teach on God's concern for orphans and to commend ministries that provide financial resources to families desiring to adopt; and be it finally

RESOLVED, we encourage local churches to champion the evangelism of and ministry to orphans around the world, demonstrating that "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world."