

Resolution Supporting North Carolina Marriage Amendment

WHEREAS, In the first primary election of 2012, North Carolina will hold a statewide referendum on a proposed amendment to the North Carolina Constitution that recognizes marriage as the union of one man and one woman; and

WHEREAS, From the beginning, the Bible established the basis for sexuality by declaring that human beings are created in God's image as "male and female" (Genesis 1:26-27); and

WHEREAS, Marriage originated from God, established in the order of creation to be a permanent union of one man with one woman (Genesis 1:28 and 2: 24); and God ordained that "a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24); and marriage is therefore first and foremost a divine institution (Matthew 19:6) and is only recognized as a cultural and civil institution having a pre-existing definition; and

WHEREAS, Jesus reaffirmed the origin of marriage in the order of creation and declared marriage to be a sacred, monogamous and life-long institution joining one man with one woman (Matthew 19: 4-6); and

WHEREAS, Marriage between a husband and a wife is the beautiful allegory of Christ's union with his bride, the church (Ephesians 5:25-32), and the sacredness of it must be protected; and

WHEREAS, Protecting marriage as the union between one man and one woman is critically important to preserving the family, our children, the repopulation and economic viability of North Carolina, and North Carolina's reputation as one of the best states in the nation in which to work and live; and

WHEREAS, While current North Carolina statutory law does not recognize so-called same sex marriage, our marriage statute could be overturned or redefined by a liberal, activist judge or future legislatures and

WHEREAS, Courts and legislatures have actually forced other states to legalize same sex marriage contrary to the will of the people; and

WHEREAS, Same-sex couples have already begun to apply for marriage licenses in North Carolina in order to contest our marriage statutes; and

WHEREAS, The Marriage Amendment will recognize the pre-existing institution of marriage by making it part of the North Carolina Constitution, placing it beyond the power of a court or future legislatures to redefine or overturn; and

WHEREAS, The Marriage Amendment will also prevent granting a legal status to or legal recognition of marriage substitutes, such as domestic partnerships or civil unions.

WHEREAS marriage being a man-woman institution structured for procreation is a universal social reality regardless of religious affiliation, Christian citizens defending marriage in secular law are defending what is best for everyone and not merely what we prefer for ourselves;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That the messengers to the North Carolina Baptist State Convention meeting in Greensboro, November 7-8, 2011, reaffirm our historic and consistent support of the biblical definition of marriage as the exclusive union of a man and a woman; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina endorses the proposed Marriage Amendment to the North Carolina Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage all Christians to be “salt and light” on this issue by exemplifying sexual purity in our lifestyle, speaking prophetically to the culture, and acting redemptive toward individuals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage the churches of the Baptist State Convention to engage in loving, redemptive ministry to homosexuals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call upon all the churches of the Baptist State Convention to vigorously organize a strong effort among their members to support passage of the Marriage Amendment in the first primary election of 2012; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that North Carolina Baptists commit ourselves to pray faithfully against the legalization of same-sex marriages or marriage substitutes in American law; and to preach and teach the truth concerning what the Bible says about the creation of and divine nature of the institution of marriage, and against any government action to accept, sanction, approve, protect or promote same-sex marriage or legal recognition of same-sex relationships.