

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCHES
RESOLUTION ON SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

The messengers of the Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting together in Fall Conference, October 13, 2012 in First Baptist Church of Nebraska City, Nebraska.

WHEREAS the Word of God plainly teaches the separation of powers, namely church from state in declaring, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Mark 12:17), and assigns specific responsibilities to each as delineated in Romans 13:1-7; and

WHEREAS all authority in the home, the church, and the state is responsible to God, “For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God;” and

WHEREAS it is a historical stand of Baptists, and declared to be a Baptist distinctive, with many of our forefathers in like faith suffering pain, torture, and death for this important doctrine of the church; and

WHEREAS the First Amendment to the Constitution of this great United States of America states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;” and

WHEREAS our churches are daily faced with constant violations of the separation of church and state by government in her expanding bureaucracies, who demand the separation of the church from the state, but persists in the attachment of the state to the church, thus placing the church and her ministries in grave danger; and

WHEREAS this violation is exemplified by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA) which will require religious employers – such as religious insurance groups, schools and universities - to provide abortion inducing drugs, sterilization, and contraception either directly or indirectly (via secondary agency) regardless of their opposition.

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of 2012 Fall Conference of the Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches meeting October 13, 2012, declare our firm commitment to the separation of church from the state and the state from the church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will resist any violation of the sovereignty of the church, and that we will obey God, rather than man, in matters where the Scripture has clearly taught a respect to evangelize, enlist and educate our people (Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 5:29); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we will support men of like faith in this hour of oppression (bureaucratic intrusion), and encourage our churches not to allow the state to take the place of Christ, who is the Head of His church, in allowing the church, her ministries, or ministers to be licensed, approved, or controlled by the dictates of the state; that while we are obligated to follow the state in areas designated by God, we call for a cessation of bureaucratic condemnation, rulings, harassment, and oppression that would cause the church to be hindered in her God-given direction.

This resolution is based upon the resolution adopted by the messengers of the 49th Annual Conference of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches meeting at San Diego, California, June 23-27, 1980.