

# **RESOLUTION ON EXPANDING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

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**Submitted by**

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**Whereas, the Reformation's emphasis on the doctrines of Sola Scriptura and the priesthood of the believer led immediately to an unprecedented demand for Christian education in Europe;**

**Whereas, Martin Luther warned that schools will prove the very gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures and engraving them in the hearts of the youth;**

**Whereas, America's earliest colonists brought with them the Reformation's imperative that all Christian children must receive a Christian education;**

**Whereas, education in colonial America was thoroughly Christian;**

**Whereas, Alexis de Tocqueville observed as a result of his travels in America in the 1830's that education was everywhere in the hands of the clergy;**

**Whereas, in the 1830's and 1840's Protestants in Massachusetts foolishly accepted a Unitarian scheme for creating the type of centralized government school system we have today;**

**Whereas, by the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century the Massachusetts model for a centralized government school system had metastasized all over the country and was by then largely in the hands of secular humanists and so-called "progressives";**

**Whereas, Christ tells us that whoever is not for him is against him;**

**Whereas, by long standing precedent of the United States Supreme Court America's government schools cannot be for Christ;**

**Whereas, because of their rejection of Christ American government schools are now seething cauldrons of spiritual, moral, and intellectual pathologies;**

**Whereas, Jesus warns against such exposure to sin when he says, “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! (Matthew 18:7);**

**Whereas, the fruit of delegating the training up of our children to an aggressively anti-Christian government school system has been a hemorrhaging of youth from our churches and the proliferation of nominal Christianity;**

**Whereas, recognizing the spiritual catastrophe our government school habit is producing, Dr. Albert Mohler, Jr., called for Southern Baptists to develop an “exit strategy” from the government schools;**

**Whereas, in recent weeks Dr. Morris Chapman, Executive Director of the Southern Baptist Convention, has observed that in far too many public schools throughout the country our children are being bombarded with secular reasoning, situational ethics and moral erosion;**

**Whereas, Dr. Chapman further recognizes that there are a number of biblical precedents for moving to bolster our investment in Christian elementary and secondary schools;**

**Whereas, Dr. Chapman recommends that Southern Baptists begin establishing Kingdom schools in inner cities and that Southern Baptist churches also cooperate with one another to create at a minimum at least one outstanding Christian k-12 school within each local association;**

**Whereas, in addition to the model of a traditional Christian school there are relatively inexpensive, educationally effective ways churches can provide or support excellent Christian education alternatives to government schools; and**

**Whereas, Dr. Chapman recognizes the extraordinary urgency of the need for Southern Baptists to greatly expand Christian education when he asks “If Southern Baptists don't do it, who will? If we don't do it now, do we risk forever losing the opportunity to build schools for God's glory and the future of our children, grandchildren and the land we love?”;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention commends Dr. Chapman for his courage and vision;**

**RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention encourages Southern Baptist churches, agencies, associations, and other organizations to investigate innovative methods of providing Christian education that have been made possible by new technology and the growth of homeschooling;**

**RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention encourages all Southern Baptist agencies to communicate *repeatedly* with parents and pastors concerning the Christian educational alternatives that are available; and**

**RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention encourages all Southern Baptist churches to work vigorously as a missional effort to encourage and support the expansion in their communities of (1) Christian schools, (2) homeschooling and homeschool co-ops, and (3) alternative models for providing Christian education such as University Model Schools and Christian One Room Schoolhouses, giving particular regard to the needs of children from low income and single parent families.**