



## **RESOLUTION ON AFFIRMING GOD’S DESIGN FOR MALE AND FEMALE PERSONS**

Submitted by: Tom Rush, Messenger from Berean Baptist Church, Social Circle, Ga

**WHEREAS**, all persons are created in God’s image and are made to glorify Him (Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 43:7); and

**WHEREAS**, God’s design was the creation of two distinct and complementary sexes, male and female (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4) which designate the fundamental distinction that God has embedded in the very biology of the human race; and

**WHEREAS**, distinctions in masculine and feminine roles as ordained by God are part of the created order and should find expression in every human heart (Genesis 2:18, 21–24; 1 Corinthians 11:7–9; Ephesians 5:22–33; 1 Timothy 2:12–14); and

**WHEREAS**, transgender activists have sought to normalize the transgender experience, and to define gender according to one’s self-perception apart from biological anatomy; and

**WHEREAS**, the growing transgender movement is aggressively seeking to pass anti-discrimination laws and ordinances, in addition to pushing for sex-integrated bathrooms, locker rooms and showers in public and private schools; and

**WHEREAS**, some public and private schools are now encouraging parents and teachers to affirm the feelings of children whose self-perception of their own gender is at variance with their biological sex; and

**WHEREAS**, public and private schools are beginning to capitulate to the powerful transgender lobby by allowing access to restrooms and locker rooms according to children’s self-perception of gender, and not according to their biological sex; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Education has ruled that an Illinois school district must give a transgender male full access to a female locker room or lose Title IX funding; and

**WHEREAS**, Houston Mayor Annise Parker in 2014 subpoenaed sermons that challenged the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, a legal measure that allows transgender people to use public restrooms of the gender in which they identify themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, in a landslide 62-38% victory, Houston voters overwhelmingly rejected the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, these cultural currents run counter to the biblical teaching as summarized in The Baptist Faith and Message, Article III that “Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God’s creation;”

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we affirm God’s good design that gender identity is determined by biological sex and not by one’s self-perception—a perception which is often influenced by fallen human nature in ways contrary to God’s design (Ephesians 4:17–18); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we extend love and compassion to those whose sexual self-understanding is shaped by a distressing conflict between their biological sex and their perceived gender identity; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we oppose efforts to alter one's bodily identity (e.g., cross-sex hormone therapy, gender reassignment surgery) to refashion it to conform with one's perceived gender identity; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we oppose steadfastly all efforts by any governing official or body to validate transgender identity as morally praiseworthy (Isaiah 5:20) through Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Nondiscrimination laws and ordinances, and sex-integrated bathrooms, locker rooms and showers in public and private schools; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we oppose sex education curriculum or any other curriculum that teaches that all imagined and actual sexual and gender-related identities are equally desirable; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that our love for the Gospel and urgency for the Great Commission must include declaring the whole counsel of God, proclaiming what Scripture teaches about God's design for us as male and female persons created in His image and for His glory (Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 20:27; Romans 11:36); and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Georgia's Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House and the sitting state senators and representatives who represent the people of Georgia.