

On the Pro-Life Ethic in a Post-Roe Society

WHEREAS, Regardless of the stage of development or location, all human beings are created in the image of God, and this reality is the foundation of God's call upon Christians to "love one another as ourselves," especially the most vulnerable among us (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 139; Matthew 22:37-39); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message states that "God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society" and that "children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord" (Article XVIII); and

WHEREAS, We joyfully celebrate and thank God for the 2022 Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that overturned the deadly precedent in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*; and

WHEREAS, Nothing is value-neutral, and pro-choice policies and court decisions have reinforced the idea for almost 50 years that abortion was morally good and promoted a particular vision of "the good life" centered on moral autonomy with phrases like, "my body, my choice"; and

WHEREAS, Many states have rightfully restricted access to abortion and abortion pills while others have lamentably expanded access, resulting in an even greater number of abortions; and

WHEREAS, Chemical abortions now account for over 60% of all abortions in the United States and not only take a precious preborn life but also lead to medical complications for 1 in 5 women; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention encouraged the development of policies that "eradicate any perceived need for abortion" ("On Anticipation of a Historic Moment in the Pro-life Movement"); and

WHEREAS, 73% of women who choose to have an abortion cite economic insecurity as the primary driver of their decision; and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists and other pro-life Christians have sought for decades to serve vulnerable women and children despite character attacks in media and culture amid mounting opposition from the deadly and dehumanizing abortion industry; and

WHEREAS, Messengers to the 2015 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention resolved to “show grace and mercy to those individuals who grieve with repentance over past abortions” (“On the Sanctity of Human Life”); and

WHEREAS, The Apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:12 that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities and power of evil in this age; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 11-12, 2024, redouble our commitment to upholding, protecting, and cherishing the precious lives of the preborn; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we celebrate the invaluable work of Christians advocating for the pro-life cause in families, churches, counseling rooms, pregnancy resource centers, and the voting booth; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we remain steadfast in our work toward robust regulation with the ultimate goal of abolishing all abortions including the dangerous, life-ending chemical abortion drugs used in elective abortions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we champion conscience protections for medical professionals who may be asked to prescribe or dispense these abortion drugs but object to their use; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm legislative policies that assist abortion-vulnerable women and promote family flourishing by making adoption more affordable and accessible, eliminating marriage penalties, bolstering the important work of pregnancy resource centers, providing a baseline of security for new families to bond with their children, and ensuring that necessary resources are available around the birth of a child; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we support collaborative partnerships between civil society and government that bolster social support and increase excellence, availability, and affordability in maternal healthcare and childcare; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on all of our Southern Baptist churches to share the gospel with and minister to men and women who have suffered at the hands of the abortion industry and to actively engage in ministries of healing and restoration by providing opportunities for individuals to share their stories, receive support, and experience the healing power of God's love and forgiveness; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we desire to see a culture of life that embraces and celebrates the formation of families and promotes their flourishing as we champion the dignity and value of all people, including the most vulnerable among us, and pray "for the day when the act of abortion will be not only illegal, but also unthinkable" ("On Thirty Years Of Roe v. Wade," 2003).

