

AMERICAN BAPTIST RESOLUTION ON MASS MEDIA

As a witness to our Christian faith, we urge American Baptists to practice a disciplined and discriminating selection in their and their children's reading, viewing, listening, game-playing and other forms of entertainment. We commend those people of television, motion pictures, radio, publishing, the Internet and other communications media who have displayed earnest efforts to present entertainment, education and information consistent with our Christian values. We deplore the negative and unwholesome influences still prevalent in many forms of communication and entertainment, including but not limited to sex, drugs, violence, profanity and prejudice, depicted in ways that are demeaning and destructive, and urge our churches to educate and inform their congregations regarding the existence and magnitude of these influences.

We value the freedom of the press and other forms of communication protected by the law of the land. Such a right and privilege carries with it the critical responsibility to insure that a free people have access to full information on public affairs, fairly presented.

Adopted by the American Baptist Convention - 1961
Affirmed as an American Baptist Churches Resolution by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1983

Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - March 1989
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - December 1990
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - March 1999
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - March 2003
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 2006
(General Board Reference # - 8122:3/89)

POLICY BASE**American Baptist Policy Statement on Human Rights**

"As American Baptists we declare the following rights to be basic human rights, and we will support programs and measures to assure these rights:

3. The right to develop family structures, to build mutually satisfying human relationships and to nurture, train and educate children;
5. The right to grow in mind and self-fulfillment, to secure an education, to develop knowledge, to exchange ideas; and to receive, impart and have access to information.
7. The right to privacy in one's home, confidential conversation, and written communication , "