



Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on Antisemitism

Passed December 2023

Antisemitism has been a global issue for millennia and has not slowed down in recent decades. Pew Research reports that Jews were targets of harassment in 94 separate countries in 2020.¹ The data reveals antisemitism occurred in 41 of the 45 countries in Europe, 18 of the 20 countries in the Middle East-North Africa (MENA) region, and 16 of the 35 countries in the Americas. In 2022, the FBI reported 1,305 criminal offenses committed against Jews.² The same data shows this number is up from the 946 offenses in 2021 and the 1,185 offenses occurring in 2020. The 2022 statistics reveal that criminal offences because of antisemitism are at a peak, not surpassed since the FBI began collecting data in 1991.³

With the outbreak of war following the invasion and attack of Israel by Hamas, people on all sides have become polarized by the issues presented. Jonathan Greenblatt, director and CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, reports that in the few weeks following October 7, 2023, antisemitism in the United States alone increased 388% compared to the same time period a year ago.⁴ FBI director Christopher Wray echoed this sentiment just a few weeks after the outbreak of war, telling Congress that the American Jew “represents only about 2.4% of the American public, [but] they account for something like 60% of all religious-based hate crimes.”⁵

Many of these antisemitic acts have been perpetrated on college campuses. And while current events have highlighted collegiate antisemitism, it is nothing new. A 2016 Brandeis University study reported that in 2015, “about one third of Jewish students reported being verbally harassed because they were Jewish, slightly less than half were told that ‘Israelis behave like Nazis toward the Palestinians,’ and about one quarter were blamed for the actions of the Israeli government because they were Jewish.”⁶ In many major universities across the United States students, professors, and staff have become more vocal and active in their antisemitic activities.

While the overwhelming response within our national, state, and local governments has been in support of Israel, antisemitism remains an issue within the leadership of the United States. This is evident in the passing of the bipartisan House Resolution 771 on October 25, 2023, in which 9

¹ <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/03/17/anti-jewish-harassment-occurred-in-94-countries-in-2020-up-from-earlier-years/>

² The ADL reports that all antisemitic incidents for 2022 stood at 3,697, an all-time high since the ADL began tracking antisemitism in 1979. <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2022>

³ <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime>

⁴ <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/11/05/anti-defamation-league-antisemitism-00125438>

⁵ <https://www.cnn.com/2023/10/31/politics/fbi-director-antisemitism-wray/index.html#:~:text=“This%20is%20not%20a%20time,but%20we%20should%20be%20vigilant.”>

⁶ <https://scholarworks.brandeis.edu/esploro/outputs/9924088244301921>

Democrats and 1 Republican voted against “Standing with Israel as it defends itself against the barbaric war launched by Hamas and other terrorists.”⁷

Despite the growing antisemitic sentiment across the United States and the globe, God’s Word reveals the true sentiment that we should have toward the Jews and the nation of Israel. The Bible records that since God called Abraham and promised to make his ancestors a great nation (Genesis 12), and reiterated the promise of blessing was to be through Isaac and then Jacob (Israel), antisemitism has been present. The Bible also records historical narratives, such as the Book of Esther, that show examples of antisemitism and God’s continual provision for his chosen people.

The nation of Israel has held and will hold a special place in God’s master plan. Through the Jewish patriarchs and prophets came God’s Word and His Law (Romans 9:3-5). It was through the Jews that God promised Israel (Genesis 12:3, Genesis 49:10, Isaiah 9:9) and the world (Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 42:6, Romans 3:29) a Messiah: God’s son, Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:16-17, Luke 4:17-21, John 4:25-26).

The Jewish nation will also have an important role in future events. Because of Israel’s role in God’s plan for mankind, conflict has been a part of Israel’s history for as long as it has been in existence. However, while those in conflict with Israel have changed through the centuries, Israel remains a people uniquely qualified and miraculously able to fulfill future prophecies related to it (Daniel 9:27, 11:36; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 11:1, 12:13).

Therefore, the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches (FFBC), in a special meeting in *December 2023*, resolves to denounce and condemn the rising tide of antisemitism in the United States and abroad, in full support of Israel’s God-given right to exist, and to pray for the region’s safety and security.

Furthermore, the FFBC will support and pray especially for evangelistic efforts in Israel and around the world to awaken the Jewish people to the truth that Jesus of Nazareth is their Messiah, that He died for their sin, and that He will come again in fulfillment of God’s promise to them and to the world. The Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches also reaffirms and upholds “Resolution 1- On Support of Israel” which was approved at the Annual Session in 2021.

⁷ <https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/2023528?RollCallNum=528&BillNum=H.RES.771>



Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on The 85th Anniversary of the Fellowship

Passed August 6, 2024

WHEREAS, God directed in the hearts of godly pastors and delegates to stand for doctrinal purity and contend for the faith (2 Corinthians 6:14-18); and

WHEREAS, these men in 1939 at Atlantic City, New Jersey were willing to walk out of the merger of several Methodist denominations to form what is today known as the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, this new merger took place despite differences in doctrine and practice; a group of ten ordained pastors, seven supply pastors, with about seventy other delegates and friends withdrew to Scullville, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the testimony of the Eastern Conference of the Methodist Church was continued by those men and the name of the organization was changed in 1940 to the *Bible Protestant Church* then, in 1985, to the *Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches*; and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Conference continues to promote ideas and agendas that go against Scriptural authority including, their pro-LGBTQ+ agenda,¹ their stance on homosexuality,² and their ordination of women pastors;³ and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches have previously made their stance on such issues known and affirmed through resolutions; and continues to stand for the *fundamentals of the faith*; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches is celebrating 85 years of faithfully following Christ and is determining to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

NOW THEREFORE, we the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches, meeting in Annual Session at Tri-State Bible Conference, Montague, NJ, August 5-8, 2024, resolve:

1. *to stand for the truth of the Word of God for which many have paid the price;*
2. *to preach the Word of God in our pulpits;*
3. *to proclaim the gospel message to a lost and dying world; and*
4. *to raise our banner high for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, giving Him the praise, honor and glory.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we remember those that have laid the foundation of our testimony for Christ and build upon that testimony a body of believers fit for the Master’s use.

¹ Heather Hahn, “Church ends 52-year-old anti-gay stance,” *UM News* (May 2, 2024).

² Heather Hahn, “United Methodists remove same-sex wedding ban,” *UM News* (May 3, 2024).

³ George Dugan, “Methodists Accept Women in Clergy,” *New York Times* (May 5, 1956) AND David Burke, “Women Reflect on changing roles in United Methodist leadership” *Great Plains UMC* (March 7, 2019)



Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on Andy Stanley and the Unconditional Conference

Passed August 6, 2024

Biblical Christianity is under attack. Today, churches claiming the name of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Bible, determine to use their own opinions, emotions, and ideologies to fit the message of the Gospel into their worldview. This is both a subversive and dangerous occurrence in the Church. The greatest dangers are seen when the pastor determines to hold to unbiblical claims and proclaim those claims as God's truth.

In recent years greater and greater platforms have been given to those desiring to water-down the Gospel and pervert Biblical truths. One such platform was Andy Stanley's Unconditional Conference held between September 28-29, 2023. The son of Pastor Charles Stanley, Andy Stanley is the founder and pastor of North Point Community Church in Atlanta, a prolific author, and an influential leader within the Christian community. The Unconditional Conference was labeled as a "quieter middle space" was billed as the "premier event is for parents of LGBTQ+ children and for ministry leaders looking to discover ways to support parents and LGBTQ+ children in their churches."¹

Unfortunately, this conference is a part of a growing trend in Christianity that seeks to normalize sin. One critic noted that "For two days, the speakers addressed how to minister to people who identify as LGBTQ but intentionally didn't address the fundamental question of whether homosexual sex or same-sex marriage is sin."² It was also reported that the Unconditional Conference taught "Preferred pronouns were accepted and, according to one parent, failing to use them is tantamount to violence. There was no pushback to transgender ideation. They simply accepted the transgender experience and baptized it with Christian lingo by saying, 'Jesus would love them.'"³

The Unconditional Conference was designed to promote the LGBTQ+ position and only provided speakers that affirmed the LGBTQ+ position, with two of the speakers even being in same-sex relationships. Stanley himself affirmed this as the purpose of the conference in a sermon given after the conference.⁴ One speaker, who had spoken at the church before,⁵ even

¹ Unconditional Conference 2023, <https://www.embracingthejourney.org/unconditional-conference.html>. (Accessed May 3, 2024)

² Alan Shlemon, "An Assessment of Andy Stanley's Unconditional Conference," Stand To Reason, October 12, 2023, <https://www.str.org/w/an-assessment-of-andy-stanley-s-unconditional-conference>.

³ Alan Shlemon, "An Assessment of Andy Stanley's Unconditional Conference," Stand To Reason, October 12, 2023, <https://www.str.org/w/an-assessment-of-andy-stanley-s-unconditional-conference>.

⁴ Andy Stanley, "I Love My Church," North Point Community Church, October 1, 2023, <https://sermons.love/andy-stanley/16592-andy-stanley-i-love-my-church.html>. This sermon was original published on Stanley's church site but has since been taken down. Transcripts/audio is available, but this link currently still has the original video up.

⁵ Ibid.

promotes the legitimacy of “homosexual behavior. . . within the confines of a committed, loving, monogamous, lifelong, Christ-centered relationship.”⁶

Andy Stanley’s views on homosexuality and the Bible are well documented in recent years,⁷ and the Unconditional Conference is just one in a series of more overt stances that Andy Stanley and others are making against the truth of the Bible. Stanley supported this conference in a sermon afterwards by declaring “Jesus drew circles [not lines].”⁸ Rather than addressing sin, Stanley would rather people continue to live in their sin saying, “The purpose. . . of the Unconditional Conference was to equip parents to connect with their kids.”⁹

However, unlike Stanley’s claim that instead of drawing lines Jesus “drew circles so large and included so many people in His circle that it consistently made religious leaders nervous,”¹⁰ the truth is that Christ drew and differentiated between circles of outreach and lines of discipleship, and even more importantly when Jesus established lines they were often even tougher than the lines drawn by the Mosaic law (Matthew 5:17-48).

The Bible clearly teaches that homosexuality is wrong, there is no middle ground available to us.¹¹ This issue, homosexual sex and marriage, is not presented Biblically as an agree-to-disagree issue. Unfortunately, for Andy Stanley and many others, they provide a sexual ethic that is often ambiguous and sometimes overtly heretical. They promote publicly an ambiguous position that does not align with their heretical private view.¹² Stanley himself has held for over a decade that he’s “always trying to look for ways to affirm everything, maybe to a fault,”¹³ and his stance on homosexuality is no different.

⁶ Justin Lee, “The Great Debate: Justin’s View,” Geeky Justin, accessed May 3, 2024, <https://geekyjustin.com/great-debate/>. [essay originally published in 2003]

⁷ Seth Dunn, “Arizona Pastor Blows the Whistle on Andy Stanley,” Pulpit& Pen, January 26, 2023, <https://pulpitandpen.org/2023/01/26/arizona-pastor-blows-the-whistle-on-andy-stanley/>. Also, J.D. Greear, “Downplaying the Sin of Homosexuality Won’t Win the Next Generation,” The Gospel Coalition, February 6, 2023, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/downplay-homosexual-sin-generation/>. See also, R. Albert Mohler, “Is the Megachurch the New Liberalism?” Albert Mohler, May 1, 2012, <https://albertmohler.com/2012/05/01/is-the-megachurch-the-new-liberalism/>.

⁸ Andy Stanley, “I Love My Church,” North Point Community Church, October 1, 2023, <https://sermons.love/andy-stanley/16592-andy-stanley-i-love-my-church.html>.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Stanley would argue the opposite. While affirming that marriage is between a man and woman, and even that biblically, homosexuality is wrong, he still desires to affirm people’s choices and sin and accept and allow them to remain in sin. These two opposing views trying to exist simultaneously only harm Christians. [See source in Cite 8]

¹² See this statement exemplified from the sources listed under cite 6.

¹³ John Blake, “Two Preaching Giants and the ‘Betrayal’ that Tore Them Apart,” CNN, November 19, 2012, <https://www.cnn.com/2012/11/17/us/andy-stanley/>.

This double standard leads many astray, and conferences like the Unconditional Conference offer people a view of Christianity that is not found in the Bible. Andy Stanley himself once wrote, “The casualty in liberal churches is *truth*. . . . [and] *sin* becomes a casualty as well.”¹⁴ Regrettably for Andy Stanley, his current direction seems to indicate he has fallen into his own warning.

The Biblical response to homosexuality is clear. The Bible provides multiple passages against homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Timothy 1:9-10, Jude 7). The Bible also gives negative examples relating to homosexuality (Genesis 19, Judges 19). Additionally, the Bible consistently provides clear evidence for marriage between only one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-25). Furthermore, Jesus while on earth affirmed marriage between one male and one female (Matthew 19: 4-6, Mark 10:6-9).

Pastors and events that seek to alter or ignore Biblical passages are false prophets and teachers (2 Corinthians 11:13), appearing outwardly as sheep but inwardly as wolves (Matthew 7:15) who seek to teach only what pleases their hearers (2 Timothy 4:3) and pervert God’s grace with sensuality (Jude 4). Rather, Christians are called to test what is taught against God’s Word (1 John 4:1), beware of those who teach against God’s Word (Matthew 7:15) and not have fellowship with them (Ephesians 5:11), and protect and guard what has been committed to us (1 Timothy 6:20).

Furthermore, in direct opposition to what Andy Stanley and others are teaching, the Bible teaches that both men and women are invited to come as we are to Christ, but not to remain as we are. Rather, Christ is to affect a change within us. Sin cannot remain or be normalized. Those who argue “God made me this way” is in direct conflict with God’s holy nature, as God is not the author of sin (James 1:13). Christ came to sinners to change them, urging them to “go, and sin no more” (John 8:11). In 1 Corinthians 6, after listing sins which included homosexuality, it ends with this statement of hope: “*And such **were** some of you:* but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11 [emphasis added]).

Therefore, we the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches meeting in Annual Session at Tri-State Bible Conference on August 6, 2024, resolve to stand for the Biblical truth that homosexuality is a sin. We call for Andy Stanley and other speakers to affirm this truth and to speak clearly and correctly on this Biblical issue. We stand against the Unconditional Conference’s promotion of homosexuality and pray that its organizers return once again to the truth of God’s Word.

Furthermore, we recognize that because God hates sin and sinful behavior (Proverbs 6:16-19; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10), He calls upon all of mankind to uphold His truth and glorify Him through holy living (Romans 1:21; 1 Peter 1:16). Thus, it is our duty before God to identify sin, call for repentance and forsaking of sin, and ask Him for freedom from sin and forgiveness with the

¹⁴ Andy Stanley, *Deep & Wide* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016), 74.

knowledge that all of us are sinners (Romans 3:23), and but by the grace of God any of us might be held captive by sin (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Based on those truths and other biblical admonitions (Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18-25; Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 19:3-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Hebrews 13:4) we believe that *every person* must be afforded care, compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Galatians 6:2, 1 John 3:17, John 13:34, Ephesians 4:32, Philippians 2:3, Galatians 3:28).