

**8129:9/84**

**AMERICAN BAPTIST RESOLUTION ON  
PUBLIC CORRUPTION AND PRIVATE MORALITY**

WHEREAS, the strength of any nation lies in the integrity of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the strength of America which has made our nation great has been built upon the honest and fair dealing of its citizens in public and private life; and

WHEREAS, continuing disclosures of widespread corruption shake the confidence of the people in the basic integrity of public officials; and

WHEREAS, those disclosures have revealed that the integrity of the public officials is often corrupted by private citizens seeking special favors, with a shocking disregard for the public good; and

WHEREAS, the lethargy of otherwise high-minded citizens condones the lowering of basic moral standards: therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we reexamine our own attitudes and practices in the light of New Testament teachings, lest by our neglect of citizenship responsibilities we contribute to the current breakdown of public morality.

Adopted by the American Baptist Convention - 1952

Affirmed by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1984

(General Board Reference # - 8129:9/84)

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**POLICY BASE**

**American Baptist Policy Statement on a Statement by American Baptists  
Concerning Freedom**

...action by Christians must express itself in the fearless utterance of personal conviction; the development of personal character resistant to hysteria; the assumption of responsibility in political life; the support of free and democratic institutions; the acceptance of risks as well as privileges of freedom; and cooperation in maintaining our common Protestant heritage.

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