

American Council of Christian Churches
81st Convention, October 25-27, 2022
Faith Chapel, Carlisle, PA
Resolution on Franklin Graham

Contrasting Franklin Graham with his famous father,¹ *USA Today* characterized the son as “a hellfire evangelist and a social conservative force . . . speaking directly and bluntly to Americans,” while calling his late father “a voice of reason and comfort.”² Perhaps Graham’s militant tone, similar to that of the old-time Fundamentalists, explains why some Fundamentalists have torn down the wall of separation between themselves and Graham’s ministries.³

In spite of his bold demeanor, Graham’s bent towards ecumenism can only be described as “like father, like son.”⁴ In his evangelistic endeavors sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association,⁵ Graham’s partnerships include, among others, heretical Protestants like Hillsong⁶ and the apostate Roman Catholic Church.⁷ The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association’s *Decision Magazine* has featured people such as Abby Johnson⁸ and Alveda King⁹ who are affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church.

A cursory internet search will reveal that Graham’s Samaritan’s Purse¹⁰ receives support for its evangelistic Operation Christmas Child from liberal Protestants,¹¹ Charismatics,¹² cults,¹³ and the Roman Catholic Church.¹⁴

Personally, Graham has endorsed religious books written by purveyors of the “Prosperity Gospel”¹⁵ and religious organizations which are supported by and supportive of liberal churches, Charismatics, and Roman Catholics.¹⁶ His 2022 “God Loves You Tour” continues the tradition of compromise begun by his father at Explo ’72.¹⁷

¹Evangelist Billy Graham.

²<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/02/21/franklin-graham-billy-graham-legacy-replacefather/858401001/>

³An example is Bob Jones University. <https://give.bju.edu/shoebox>.

⁴<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/billy-graham/billy-graham-catholics-preacher-and-popes.html>.

⁵Graham is President and CEO.

⁶<https://billygraham.org/gallery/enthusiasm-for-jesus-dominates-japan-celebration/>; <https://billygraham.org/story/praying-changed-lives-ahead-greater-vancouver-festival-hope>.

⁷<https://www.wesa.fm/identity-justice/2014-08-14/franklin-graham-son-of-billy-graham-to-lead-pittsburgh-religious-festival>; <https://www.post-gazette.com/local/2014/08/10/Franklin-Graham-coming-to-Pittsburgh-known-for-outreach-but-also-divisive-comments-on-Islam-Hinduism-and-gay-marriage/stories/201408100022>.

⁸<https://decisionmagazine.com/cissie-graham-lynch-and-abby-johnson-urge-americans-to-vote-for-religious-liberty-and-life/>; <https://convincedcatholic.org/2019/07/abby-johnson-conversion-story>.

⁹<https://decisionmagazine.com/alveda-king-we-are-one-human-race/>; <https://www.priestsforlife.org/staff/alveda-king-biography.aspx>.

¹⁰Graham is President and CEO.

¹¹<https://www.stpaulsucc.net/2015/11/18/operation-christmas-child-samaritans-purse/>; <https://gracelutheranlibertyville.org/operation-christmas-child/>; <http://www.lppcmin.org/get-involved/>; <https://holycrosscarlsbad.org/community/samaritans-purse-operation-christmas-child>.

¹²<https://pgpentecostal.com/news/operation-christmas-child>; <https://allnationselim.org/operation-christmas-child>.

¹³<https://news-nz.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/manukau-latter-day-saints-support-samaritans-purse>; <https://www.midlandacademy.org/supporters/operation-christmas-child>.

¹⁴<https://stmaryspylesville.org/operation-christmas-child-samaritans-purse>.

¹⁵*Something Greater* by Paula White and *Beyond Blessed* by Robert Morris. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2019/october-web-only/paula-white-cain-book-endorsement-trump-advisors-graham-jef.html>; <https://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Blessed-Perfect-Overcome-Financial/dp/1549143042>.

¹⁶An example is Youth With A Mission (YWAM). <https://ywam.org/about-us/endorsements>; <https://ywam.org/seeking-christian-unity>

¹⁷ <https://www.godlovesyoutour.com>.

In a 1980 pamphlet entitled *Biblical Separation* written by Bob Jones University's Bible faculty, the authors declared truth that is still relevant these many years later:

Public sin committed by a public figure must be publicly rebuked for the sake of those who are being deceived. For example, a man who advocates fellowship with apostasy and who cooperates with cultists, heretics, false teachers, unbelievers, and Romanists is guilty of a public defiance of God's command. For the sake of those whom he is leading astray or who might be led astray by him if not properly warned from the Scripture, a faithful minister of Christ must hold that man up as an example of a false teacher even though he pretends to, and perhaps to an extent does, preach the gospel. He is not, however, abiding in the doctrine of Christ and so must be exposed as a wolf in sheep's clothing.¹⁸

Therefore, the American Council of Christian Churches at its 81st Convention, October 25-27, 2022, at Faith Chapel, Carlisle, PA, resolves that Christians and ministries which seek to practice Biblical separation should not partner in ministry with Franklin Graham or any of the organizations that are led by him. Instead, 2 Thessalonians 3:6 declares, "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."



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¹⁸The Bob Jones University Bible Faculty, *Biblical Separation* (Greenville, S.C.: Bob Jones University, 1980), pp.15-16.