

Statement of Marriage and Gender

—We believe the Word of God, revealed in the Holy Scriptures, has declared His design and intent for marriage since Creation and has not changed since the beginning of time (Genesis 1-2).

—We believe biblical marriage is the pre-fall monogamous union of one man and one woman as the norm of human sexuality & marriage, as designed by God, for their lifetime. (Ex. 20:14, Deut. 5:18, Lev. 20:10, 18:22)

—We believe the primary purpose of marriage is to glorify God as a picture of Christ and the Church. We believe that God also designed and ordained marriage for marital companionship, the consummation of marriage between a man and woman, the pleasure of the husband and wife, for procreation of the human race and as an expression of love. (Eph 5:25-32, Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-23, 2:24-25, 1 Corinthians 7:1-5, Proverbs 5:18-19; I Cor. 6:20, 10:31; Col. 3:17; Song of Solomon)

—We believe the Bible teaches all sexual acts outside of marriage is sin. (1 Corinthians 6:9, 18-20, Hebrews 13:4)

—Furthermore, we believe the sexual role of male and female is an essential part of God's Creative design. God made the woman as a suitable, proper, and fitting counterpart for the man. Thus, a man and a woman are God's blueprint for marriage because He commanded the man (as a husband, being male) and the woman (as a wife, being female) to be "fruitful and multiply." Thus, biblically speaking, same-sex marriage can in no way represent the Scriptural or historical Christian view of this mandate. (Genesis 1:27, Gen. Genesis 2:18-23, 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6).

—Therefore, we believe God desires all males and females to express their gender in purity and holiness in accordance with their biological sex.

—We believe the Fall of mankind has corrupted God's original intent for purity in human sexuality in all persons; therefore, all people, whether heterosexual or homosexual, experience corruption in their sexuality; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

—We believe that in Christ all sin is forgiven when people turn to Him in saving faith and are cleansed by the blood of Jesus (I Cor.6:9-11).

—Considering the kindness of Christ Jesus, we believe that followers of Christ should exhibit grace to everyone. We believe that any unkind act toward fellow human beings is an offense against God's desire for all people to repent for their sin and come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through the Gospel. (Matthew 22:37-40)