



Christ Our Hope Church

Marriage and Human Sexuality Policy

December 2017

Marriage and Human Sexuality - *Preamble:*

At Christ Our Hope church, we believe that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated based on Holy Scripture, which is our inspired, infallible, and inerrant guide (2 Tim 3:16-17). Since the Holy Bible does speak to the nature of human beings and their sexuality, it is imperative that we correctly understand and articulate what the Bible teaches on these matters.

We are committed to the home and family as set forth in Holy Scripture. We believe God has ordained and created marriage to exist between one man and one woman, with absolute marital fidelity. The Bible sets forth specific home and family values, which include the distinct roles of husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and children. It is our firm conviction that we uphold the dignity of each individual as we embrace the unchanging and longstanding principles of scriptural truth.

Marriage – The Bible teaches and we believe marriage is the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” union of one man and one woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. There is no “biblical marriage” outside these parameters.

Consequently, no pastor, ordained officer or employee may participate in the solemnization of any union outside of that which the Bible defines, viz. the one flesh union of one man and one woman. No such union will be performed or celebrated using the resources of Christ Our Hope church, viz., facilities or equipment.

Reference: Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18-24, Matthew 19:4-9, Mark 10:5-9, and Ephesians 5:31-33.

Sexual Immorality – The Bible teaches, and we believe, sexual acts outside marriage are prohibited because they are sinful, viz. they fail to represent and fulfill God’s design for sexuality.

Consequently, all Christians must resist and refrain from any and all sexual acts outside marriage including but not limited to adultery, fornication, incest, zoophilia, pornography, prostitution, voyeurism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, sodomy, polygamy, polyamory, sologamy, or same-sex sexual acts.

Reference: Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 18:7-23, 20:10-21, Deuteronomy 5:18, Matthew 15:19, 5:27-28, 15:19, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 4:17-19, and Colossians 3:5.

Sexual Identity – The Bible teaches and we believe that God created mankind in His image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity.

Consequently, we affirm biological sex differentiation and reject any and all attempts to physically change, alter, or disagree with a person’s birth, predominant biological sex including but not limited to elective sex-reassignment, transvestite, transgender, or non-binary “genderqueer” acts or conduct.

Reference: Genesis 1:26-28, Romans 1:26-32, and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.



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Sexual Orientation – The Bible teaches and we believe that God created and ordered human sexuality to be expressed in accordance with biblical sexuality, viz., male *for* female or female *for* male. While cultures express masculinity and femininity differently, with regard to sexual attraction or expression, God’s design is for opposite sexes.

Consequently we affirm the sexual complementarity of man and woman and resist any and all same-sex sexual attractions and refrain from any and all same-sex sexual acts or conduct, which are intrinsically disordered and sinful.

Reference: Genesis 1:27, 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:5-9, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 5:25-27 and Revelation 19:7-9, 21:2.

Sexual Redemption – The Bible teaches and we believe that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and should seek redemption through confession, repentance, and faith in Jesus Christ.

Consequently, we welcome and treat with respect, compassion, and sensitivity all who experience same-sex attractions or confess sexually immoral acts (of all kinds) but are committed to resisting sexual temptation, refraining from sexual immorality, and conforming their behavior to the Scriptures.

Reference: Matthew 11:28-30, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:1-10, I Corinthians 10:13, and Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16.

Celibacy – The Bible teaches and we believe that Holy Scripture grants two life-enhancing options for human sexual behavior: (1) the conjugal “one flesh” marital union of one man and one woman, and (2) celibacy, viz., sexual abstinence. Either is a gift from God, given as He wills for His glory and the good of those who receive and rejoice in His gift to them. Celibacy and faithful singleness is to be celebrated and affirmed within the church.

Reference: Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18, 21-24, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:5-8, Hebrews 13:4, 1 Corinthians 7:1-8, Matthew 19:12, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Romans 12:10 and 1 Timothy 5:1-2.