

Resolved Bible Church

A Church Statement on Human Sexuality

God's Design of Gender

All people are made in the image and likeness of God, and this is a fact from conception onward (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalms 51:5, 139:13; Isaiah 49:1). Neither one's conduct nor character diminishes his/her value to the Creator, a fact demonstrated by the atoning death of Jesus Christ for all people (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

But God did not simply make people in his image; rather he made them in his image as "male and female" (Genesis 1:26). Scripture is never ambivalent regarding people's gender identity, and gender itself is rooted in biological realities that existed all the way back in Genesis 1—before the fall.

For this reason the Bible can speak to men and women differently. Different instructions can be given to men than to women (1 Timothy 2-3, Titus 1-2, 1 Corinthians 16:13, etc.). Yet the Bible can also affirm that both genders are equally in the image of God (Genesis 1:27; Galatians 3:28).

The Scripture makes clear that gender exists at birth and that both genders have equal worth/value/significance to God, yet they are also different from each other.

God's Design of Marriage

Immediately after creating gender, God created marriage which was inextricably linked to gender. This includes the sexual union of a husband and wife. (Genesis 1:27-29, 2:22-25). Thus throughout the Bible, marriage is recognized as the covenantal union of one man and one woman, for life.

Gender differences are not ancillary to marriage, but are rather the whole point of the relationship. It was not good for man to be alone, God said, so he needed someone like him but not like him. Men and women are different physically, biologically, emotionally, and in a range of other ways. It is precisely in these differences that marriage is designed to be complementary.

Resolved Bible Church uses the term "complementary" to describe the way God designed marriage to function. In a complementary marriage, gender differences combine to form a family that is more a reflection of God's design than a relationship where these differences are not present. This complementary nature of marriage is one of the reasons God made Eve different from Adam in the very beginning.

God's Design for Sex

The most obvious example of the complementary nature of marriage is sexual intimacy. Sex within marriage exists for the purposes of both "one-flesh" bonding and procreation, neither of which is possible in a same-sex relationship (Gen 2:24). Sexual expression is not additional to marriage (as if it were an extra, added onto the design of marriage), but rather it is a fundamental expression of the complementary commitment made between a husband and wife, reinforced by this being the only way to bring a child into the world.

For this reason, the Scripture makes clear that any sexual act outside of marriage is sinful. Thus, heterosexual sexual acts outside of marriage are sin, as well as all homosexual sexual acts—among other reasons, because they too exist outside of a biblical concept of marriage.

Sexuality

We teach that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, pornography, any attempt to change one's sex or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God (Lev. 18:1–30; Matt. 5:28; Rom. 1:26–29; 1 Cor. 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1–8).

We teach that homosexuality, in particular, is subject to God's wrath of abandonment, is a matter of choice and not inherited status, and epitomizes man's ungrateful rebellion against God (Rom. 1:18–28).

We teach that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be denied and are not in accord with Scripture or the doctrines of the church.

We teach that the faithful proclamation of the Scripture, including the call to repentance, does not constitute hate speech, or hateful and harassing behavior, but is instead a fundamental part of the church's loving mission to the world (Matt. 28:16–20; 2 Cor. 5:11–20; 1 Tim. 1:5; 2 Tim. 4:1–2).

We teach that God offers redemption and forgiveness to all who confess and forsake their sin, including sexual sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We teach that His forgiveness is total and complete (Ps. 103:11–12, 130:3–4; Is. 43:25, 44:22; John 5:24; Col. 2:13–14) and that God imputes the full righteousness of Christ (2 Cor. 5:21) to the believing sinner.

We teach that the forgiven sinner has been cleansed from the guilt of sin, set apart unto God, or made holy, and justified before Him (1 Cor. 6:9–11).

We teach that any man or woman who has received that forgiveness is "in Christ" and is a "new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17).

Affirmations and denials

- We affirm that God designed marriage, gender, and sex.
- We affirm that gender is a binary biological reality present at birth (This is God's original design, but we recognize that in rare cases people are born with ambiguous biological characteristics).
- We affirm that sin mars God's original design, and that people consequently are born with sin in their hearts and their identities.
- We affirm that all sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful and displeasing to the Lord.
- We affirm that marriage is a life-long commitment between two people of opposite genders.
- We deny that any same sex relationship is properly called marriage.
- We deny that the Bible's prohibitions against sexual activity outside of marriage were culturally specific.
- We deny that it can be pleasing to the Lord for one to change his/her physical gender because of a perceived psychological identification with another gender.

(revised: 4/25/2023)