

STATEMENT OF FAITH

MARRIAGE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

Preamble

*We believe that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated on the basis of Holy Scripture, which is our infallible guide (2Timothy 3:16-17). Since the Holy Bible clearly speaks 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 men and women, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and children. It is our firm conviction that we uphold the dignity of each individual as we embrace these unchanging and longstanding principles of scriptural truth.

Religious Beliefs

Based on Holy Scripture and the constant moral teaching of the universal Church, we believe:

***Marriage** – The Sanctuary Fellowship defines marriage as 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. (Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 2:18-24, Matthew 19:4-9, Mark 10:5-9, Ephesians 5:31-33)

***Sexual Immorality** – The Sanctuary Fellowship believes that sexual acts outside marriage are prohibited as sinful. Consequently, The Sanctuary Fellowship members must resist and refrain from any and all sexual acts outside marriage. (Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 18:7-23, Leviticus 20:10-21, Deuteronomy 5:18, Matthew 15:19, Matthew 5:27-28, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 4:17-19, Colossians 3:5)

***Sexual Identity** – The Sanctuary Fellowship believes that God created mankind in His image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity. Consequently, The Sanctuary Fellowship members must affirm their biological sex and refrain from any and all attempts to physically change, alter, or disagree with their predominant biological sex – including but not limited to elective sex-reassignment, transvestite, transgender, or non-binary “genderqueer” acts or conduct. (Genesis 1:26-28, Romans 1:26-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

***Sexual Orientation** – The Sanctuary Fellowship believes that God created and ordered human sexuality to the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive and conjugal “one flesh” union of man and woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother and child. Consequently, The Sanctuary Fellowship members must 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. (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:5-9, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelations 19:7-9, Revelation 21:2)

***Celibacy** – The Sanctuary Fellowship believes 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. 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 Sanctuary Fellowship. (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, 1 Timothy 5:1-2)

Holy Scripture

Marriage and Human Sexuality

*Genesis 1:26-28
*Genesis 2:18-24
*Genesis 19:5-10
*Exodus 20:14
*Leviticus 18:7-23
*Leviticus 20:10-21
*Deuteronomy 5:18
*Judges 19:22-24
*Matthew 5:27-28
*Matthew 15:19

Pastoral Care

*Matthew 11:28-30
*Romans 3:23
*Ephesians 2:1-10
*1 Corinthians 10:13
*Hebrews 2:17-18
*Hebrews 4:14-16

- *Mark 10:5-9
- *Romans 1:26-27
- *1 Corinthians 6:9-13
- *1 Corinthians 5:21
- *Galatians 5:19
- *Ephesians 4:17-19
- *Ephesians 5:25-27
- *Ephesians 5:31
- *Colossians 3:5
- *1 Thessalonians 4:3
- *Hebrews 13:4
- *1 Timothy 1:8-10
- *Jude 1:7
- *Revelation 19:7-9
- *Revelation 21:2

Application

All of our members, employees, and volunteers must affirm and adhere to this Doctrinal and Religious statement on Marriage and Human Sexuality to qualify for involvement with the ministry. This is necessary to accomplish our religious mission, goals and purpose. Behavior or counter-witnessing that does otherwise will impede and burden our integrity and religious mission.

Authority

The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God, acting as the source of authority over morality, our beliefs, Christian lifestyle and conduct. The Sanctuary Fellowship, Pastors, and Elders are charged with the ministerial responsibility of Biblical interpretation and promulgating religious policy. The Sanctuary Fellowship, Pastors, and Elders will determine life application as well as final matters relating to church theology, philosophy, Christian practice, faith, divine truth, morality, and theological and doctrinal resolutions.

