

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE AND GENDER

The Sanctity of Marriage

We believe that marriage is a covenant before God between one man and one woman as outlined in Scripture, according to God's plan (Gen 2:23-24; 1 Cor 7:1-5; Mark 10:6-9). Biblical marriage is God's provision for mankind to preserve and protect society and provide a safe environment for the rearing of children. Any sexual or intimate relationship outside of marriage is sin before God and demands repentance. Those illicit relationships include fornication (sex with a partner while not married), adultery (sexual relations with someone other than your spouse), polygamy, and homosexuality (Rom 1:24-27; 1 Cor 6:9, 18; Eph 5:3; Col 3:5; 1 Thes 4:3-7; 1 Cor 5:1; Lev 18:6-18).

A Biblical View of Gender

We believe that both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God, male (Adam) and female (Eve) (Gen 1:26-27; 2:18).

We believe this creation is a fixed matter of human biology, not an individual choice (Gen 1:27; 5:2; Ps 139:13-14; Matt 19:4; Mark 10:6).

We believe marriage is instituted by God, not government, is between one man and one woman and is the only context for sexual desire and expression (Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5-6). We believe that distinctions in the roles of man and woman are ordained by God as part of the created order and were declared by God to be very good. (Gen 1:31; 2:18, 21-24; 1 Cor 11:7-9; 1 Tim 2:12-14).