



# Statement on Marriage & Sexuality

*Written by Pastor Bruce Rosdahl & Pastor Chad Graham; 2023 | Christ Church Bylaws; Article 9: Articles of Faith*

## 9.4 Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

The biblical view of marriage is the union of one man and one woman in permanent sacred fidelity. God alone has ultimate authority to prescribe, define, and set boundaries on the marital relationship as declared in Scripture (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:1–9, Mark 10:1–12). The Church must follow God's eternal purposes and design for marriage rather than the changing opinions of culture, organizations, or governments. Furthermore, sexual intimacy is properly exercised and pursued only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. Sexual immorality is any sexual activity outside of the boundaries of the sacred marital relationship and is expressly prohibited by God (Matthew 15:19, 1 Corinthians 6:9–11, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4).

The Church regards all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, and lustful intent, as sinful and contrary to God's design. The Church also regards as sinful the desire to alter surgically the state of one's body or organs to a different sex. Since the body is a creation of God, the Church holds sexual identity to be biologically determined, and associated gender norms are to be observed as appropriate to biblical standards. Disagreement with one's biological sex only leads to spiritual confusion and emotional chaos (Genesis 1:27, Romans 1:26–32, 1 Corinthians 6:9–11).

Though sinful sexual expression is egregious (as is all sin), the gospel provides redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9–11, Ephesians 2:1–10, Titus 3:3–7). A difference must be made between temptation and unrepented sin. Jesus was tempted in all ways as we are, yet He never sinned. Members, employees, volunteers, and attendees of the Church wrestling with all manner of sexual temptation will find a Church ready to point them to Jesus and join with them to fight for their obedience to Christ. For those fighting temptation and repenting of sin, the Church will provide love, care and direction (Matthew 11:28–30, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 2:17–18, Hebrews 4:14–16).

The Church's Statement on Marriage and Sexuality does not provide grounds for bigotry, bullying or hate, as we fully believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity, regardless of his or her lifestyle.



Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated as sinful and are not in accordance with the Scriptures nor the doctrines of the Church.

In order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical example to the Church Members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity or united to the Church in membership should abide by and agree to this "Statement on Marriage and Sexuality" and conduct themselves accordingly.

This Statement on Marriage and Sexuality specifically gives the Elders the right and authority to prohibit acts or omissions, including but not limited to (a) permitting any Church assets or property, whether real property, personal property, intangible property, or any property or asset of any kind that is subject to the direction or control of the Church, to be used in any manner that would be—or, in the sole determination of the Elders, could be perceived by any person to be— inconsistent with this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality; and (b) permitting any Church facilities to be used by any person, organization, corporation, or group that would or might use such facilities to convey, intentionally or by implication, what might be perceived as a favorable impression about any definition of marriage, sexuality, or gender other than that contained in this statement.

The Church's Statement on Marriage and Sexuality is based upon God's will for human life as conveyed to us through the Scriptures, upon which this Church has been founded and anchored, and this statement shall not be subject to change through popular vote; referendum; prevailing opinion of members or the general public; influence of or interpretation by any government authority, agency, or official action; or legal developments on the local, state, or federal level.