

## **An Open Letter to the Saints at Shiloh Baptist Church**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we once again find ourselves in the midst of what the world calls “Pride Month” (our culture’s month-long celebration of the LGBTQ+ agenda), I write to you not in fear or outrage, but with pastoral concern, aiming to provide biblical clarity and gospel hope concerning the degradation of human identity and sexuality.

On Saturday evening, as I sat down to watch the news, I saw various “pride” celebrations all across North Carolina. While the news celebrated these events, one striking image caught my eye: parents bringing their young children to these gatherings. As a pastor, I cannot stay silent. As the church, we must speak out boldly against this nonsense.

This month, our culture publicly and persistently celebrates and promotes ideologies and lifestyles that are in direct contradiction to God’s created design and His revealed will. As your pastor, I urge you to view these developments not merely as social or political trends but as spiritual realities that call for discernment, conviction, and compassion.

We aim to faithfully address these issues by standing firmly on God’s Word. Here are **four principles** we must champion together as we seek to engage those enslaved by this movement.

### **We must affirm God’s sovereign design and holy standard.**

The Scriptures teach plainly that “God created man in His own image... male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27). In His providence and wisdom, He instituted marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24), and He established boundaries for human sexuality—not to rob us of joy, but to guard it.

As Southern Baptists, we affirm the authority and sufficiency of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16–17), and we do not shape our doctrine around cultural movements, but around God’s eternal truth. Sexual sin—including homosexuality, transgenderism, and all forms of rebellion against God’s design—is not a matter of identity to be celebrated, but sin to be repented of (Romans 1:24–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11).

### **We must respond with truth and love, never with hatred.**

While we reject the moral claims and theological errors of the LGBTQ+ movement, we do not despise those caught in its grip. Every person, regardless of their sin, bears the image of God (Genesis 1:26–27) and needs the same redeeming grace we ourselves have received (Romans 3:23).

The gospel does not affirm us in our sin—it rescues us from it (Ephesians 2:1–10). Therefore, we must speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), showing the compassion of Christ without compromising His commands. We must not allow the world’s pressure or fear of offense to silence the truth (Acts 4:12).

**We are called to pray and persevere.**

The rise in celebration of sin is not unexpected to those who trust in God's sovereignty. Romans 1 reminds us that when a society suppresses the truth in unrighteousness, God gives them over to dishonorable passions and a debased mind. Yet we are not without hope. God is still at work (Romans 8:28), and Christ is still building His Church (Matthew 16:18).

Therefore, let us pray:

- For those in bondage to all kinds of sexual sin, that God would open their eyes to the truth and draw them to Christ (Matthew 5:27-28).
- For courage and compassion in our witness, especially among our youth, who are being targeted by these cultural messages (Acts 4:29).
- For the Church to remain faithful, unshaken, and full of grace and truth in a hostile age (John 1:14).

**We must proclaim a gospel that transforms.**

The glorious truth is this: "such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 6:11). Our hope is not in moral reform, but in new birth (John 3:3). The gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to save the sexually immoral, the self-righteous, the addicted, the confused, and anyone who will repent and believe (Romans 1:16).

We must never forget that our message is not, "Come clean yourself up," but rather, "Come to Christ, and He will make you new" (Titus 3:4-7).

In conclusion, Shiloh Baptist Church, let us stand unwavering on the truth of God's Word. Let us be lights in a dark world, not through anger or compromise, but through holiness, humility, and hope in Christ.

We must affirm God's sovereign and holy standard, respond with truth and love, commit to prayer, and proclaim a gospel that transforms!

May we be defined by the fear of the Lord, not the fear of culture. May we stand firm in the truth, motivated by love for God, love for His Word, and love for our neighbors—even those who reject Him (Philippians 4:1-9).

The gospel remains the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16).

For Christ and His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pastor" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ryan".

**Ryan Guzouskis**  
Lead Pastor  
Shiloh Baptist Church