



Discussion Questions:

Describe any interactions you have had with those who hold to differing sexual ideals from you. How would you describe those interactions?

Review: Spiritual Realities

The end will be unmistakable (Revelation 21:1-4)

The battle gets increasingly worse (Matthew 24:1-13)

The sides become increasingly clear (1 Tim. 4:1-2, 2 Tim. 3:1-5, 4:1-5, 2 Pet. 3:1-13)

Takeaway: Be ready and be a witness

Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality

The beginning of this discussion must include acceptance of this fact: **For followers of Jesus, sin must be battled against and not accepted.** When we realize that our sin is, in fact, worth fighting against, that sin is something I do not want to do, then we can make progress. It's only when we cease fighting against sin that our salvation should be legitimately questioned.

HCC teaches:

God created humans as male or female with intention (Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 139:13-15)

God designed marriage as between one biological man and one biological woman (Genesis 2:21-25, Matthew 19:3-6, Ephesians 5:31-33)

God declared all sexual sin to be destructive (1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Romans 1:22-32)

As followers of Jesus, we must not elevate certain sins to be more "sinful" to God. Despite the fact that there are vastly different earthly consequences for sins, we must not make the mistake of thinking that our sin is somehow more acceptable than someone else's sin.

Believers have a responsibility to approach others with truth and grace. Please don't leave either one out in your conversations with people who see sexuality differently than the Bible does.

We must fight against the normalization of sexual sin of all kinds. That fight should first take place in your own heart so that you can have integrity when you engage with others.

The genuine believer's response to all sexual sin: Bought by the blood of Jesus, we fight a Holy Spirit-powered battle for sexual righteousness alongside fellow disciples for the glory of God!

Takeaway: Strive for sexual righteousness

Article Sixteen-- Gender, Sexuality, and Marriage

Introduction

The Bible is inspired, inerrant, and infallible as originally given is God's Word and the only rule for faith and practice. In order to understand the application of Biblical principles in our context, the leaders of Hesperia Community Church and Christian School apply their God-given gifts and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, make interpretations of the Bible which are reflected in our Doctrinal Statement. These leaders have the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application at Hesperia Community Church and Christian School.

We believe that God offers forgiveness, redemption, and restoration to all who repent of sin of all kinds, including the topics discussed in this statement. Our ministry stands ready to walk alongside any repentant person who decides to battle against sin.

(Romans 7:7-24, 1 John 1:9)

Statement on Gender

We believe that God created humanity with two distinct genders: male and female. Both genders are equal in value but different in role. All of humanity is created in the image of God and therefore has innate value and worth. We believe that when someone chooses to reject their biological gender, they are rejecting the Image of God placed within them.

(Genesis 1-2, Psalm 139:13-14)

Statement on Marriage

We believe that God created and ordained the marriage union and set its parameters within the structure of a monogamous union between one man and one woman.

(Genesis 2:21-25, Matthew 19:3-9, Ephesians 5:21-33)

Statement on Sexual Practices

We believe that any and all forms of sexual expression outside the bounds of marriage are considered sexual immorality and therefore are sinful practices. This includes, but is not limited to, adultery, fornication, homosexual practices, bisexual practices, transvestitism, bestiality, incest, and pornography.

(1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Hebrews 13:4)

Conclusion

We believe that in order to preserve the integrity and mission of each respective organization as the body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical picture of God's design and plan for mankind in the areas of gender and sexual activity, it is imperative that all employees and all volunteers agree to abide by this statement of gender, marriage, and sexual practice.

Those who attend Hesperia Community Church, or its ministries, will be taught these truths in age-appropriate, grace-filled ways as such topics arise in the normal course of ministry.