

Beavercreek Christian Church
ELDER STATEMENT
Concerning Marriage & Sexuality

The purpose of this statement is to articulate the church's position on sexuality and marriage.

While we understand that the Bible, as God's word, both reflects and addresses the various cultures in which its writings were originally directed, we believe that principles and ideals can often be discerned that apply to people in all cultures and at all times. Many of the particularities found within its pages are culturally conditioned, but the principles that lie behind them transcend any particular culture. We recognize that this is one of the greatest challenges of the faithful interpretation of the Scriptures for any generation.

While biblical authors record, often without comment, different examples of relationships between individuals, God's ideal for these can be discerned from both the didactic and narrative portions of Scripture. We recognize that our culture at large, as well as some of our brothers and sisters in Christ, may disagree on matters of sexuality, gender, singleness, marriage, and divorce. However, based on our understanding of God's desire for our good as we do our best to faithfully interpret the whole of Scripture, we hold the following position:

God created us in his image, to reflect his character and represent him in the world. In the beginning God created humanity as gendered beings, to populate, rule over, and care for the rest of his creation. God created humans as male and female, both reflecting his image equally (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Mark 10:6-7).

From the very beginning God's design for sexual intimacy has been between a consenting adult male and adult female in a marriage relationship, which according to the ideal found in Scripture, is understood to be an interdependent, exclusive, and lifelong commitment. Any sexual activity outside of these boundaries falls short of God's ideal, and as such, is recognized as sinful behavior (Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:32; Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 7:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3).

We believe that every person, because they are created in God's image, is to be treated with compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual for any reason are not in accordance with the Lord's command to love our neighbors as ourselves, and are to be repudiated vigorously. Our desire is that BCC be a safe place of healing and flourishing for all who earnestly long to experience the love of God in grace and truth, regardless of their current lifestyle or situation.

Because this is our understanding of God's will for us as his people, BCC does not permit use of its facilities for the purpose of ceremonies (including civil unions) or any activities that do not reflect this understanding of God's design for marriage.

Furthermore, pastoral staff and elders of the church are not permitted to officiate at such ceremonies or activities regardless of their location.

Again, we recognize that this position of the church may not align with the understanding of others. As a church body, we welcome those who may have a different perspective to join us as a community of Jesus' followers in worshiping the Lord and serving his kingdom. We invite anyone who has specific questions regarding the issues in this statement to contact one of our elders or pastoral staff for further discussion.

The Elders of Beavercreek Christian Church
Approved and entered into Minutes 25 October 2020