

First Biblical Counseling

Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

Marriage is an institution created by God, given by God, and ordained by God (Genesis 2:24). God created marriage ultimately for His glory as an earthly picture of Christ's redemptive relationship with His church (Ephesians 5:32). Though biblical marriage gives multiple blessings to humanity (e.g., children, companionship, enjoyment, physical fulfillment, etc.), it is always for the purpose of pointing to the Church's marriage to her bridegroom, Christ. Marriage was created as an earthly union with Christ at the center. As a result, marriage is to be understood and defined under the parameters given by God through Scripture.

Therefore, we believe that marriage is a covenantal relationship instituted by God between one man and one woman. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male and female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

We believe God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a biological man and a biological woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality as described in the Bible (including fornication, adultery, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, transgenderism, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and outside of God's good, intended design (Matthew 15:18-20; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

We believe that through justification, God transforms sinful hearts that have proclivities to any sin. We believe that through sanctification, God progressively transforms a Christian's heart and life from sin to righteousness. We believe that God offers full redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

