



# NASHVILLE

## STATEMENT

A COALITION FOR BIBLICAL SEXUALITY

*“Know that the LORD Himself is God;  
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves...”  
-Psalm 100:3*

### **Preamble**

Evangelical Christians at the dawn of the twenty-first century find themselves living in a period of historic transition. As Western culture has become increasingly post-Christian, it has embarked upon a massive revision of what it means to be a human being. By and large the spirit of our age no longer discerns or delights in the beauty of God’s design for human life. Many deny that God created human beings for his glory, and that his good purposes for us include our personal and physical design as male and female. It is common to think that human identity as male and female is not part of God’s beautiful plan, but is, rather, an expression of an individual’s autonomous preferences. The pathway to full and lasting joy through God’s good design for his creatures is thus replaced by the path of shortsighted alternatives that, sooner or later, ruin human life and dishonor God.

This secular spirit of our age presents a great challenge to the Christian church. Will the church of the Lord Jesus Christ lose her biblical conviction, clarity, and courage, and blend into the spirit of the age? Or will she hold fast to the word of life, draw courage from Jesus, and unashamedly proclaim his way as the way of life? Will she maintain her clear, counter-cultural witness to a world that seems bent on ruin?

We are persuaded that faithfulness in our generation means declaring once again the true story of the world and of our place in it—particularly as male and female. Christian Scripture teaches that there is but one God who alone is Creator and Lord of all. To him alone, every person owes glad-hearted thanksgiving, heart-felt praise, and total allegiance. This is the path not only of glorifying God, but of knowing ourselves. To forget our Creator is to forget who we are, for he made us for himself. And we cannot know ourselves truly without truly knowing him who made us. We did not make ourselves. We are not our own. Our true identity, as male and female persons, is given by God. It is not only foolish, but hopeless, to try to make ourselves what God did not create us to be.

We believe that God’s design for his creation and his way of salvation serve to bring him the greatest glory and bring us the greatest good. God’s good plan provides us with the greatest freedom. Jesus said he came that we might have life and have it in overflowing measure. He is for us and not against us. Therefore, in the hope of serving Christ’s church and witnessing publicly to the good purposes of God for human sexuality revealed in Christian Scripture, we offer the following affirmations and denials.

### **Article 1**

WE AFFIRM that God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife, and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and his bride the church.

WE DENY that God has designed marriage to be a homosexual, polygamous, or polyamorous relationship. We also deny that marriage is a mere human contract rather than a covenant made before God.

### **Article 2**

WE AFFIRM that God's revealed will for all people is chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage.

WE DENY that any affections, desires, or commitments ever justify sexual intercourse before or outside marriage; nor do they justify any form of sexual immorality.

### **Article 3**

WE AFFIRM that God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in his own image, equal before God as persons, and distinct as male and female.

WE DENY that the divinely ordained differences between male and female render them unequal in dignity or worth.

### **Article 4**

WE AFFIRM that divinely ordained differences between male and female reflect God's original creation design and are meant for human good and human flourishing.

WE DENY that such differences are a result of the Fall or are a tragedy to be overcome.

### **Article 5**

WE AFFIRM that the differences between male and female reproductive structures are integral to God's design for self-conception as male or female.

WE DENY that physical anomalies or psychological conditions nullify the God-appointed link between biological sex and self-conception as male or female.

### **Article 6**

WE AFFIRM that those born with a physical disorder of sex development are created in the image of God and have dignity and worth equal to all other image-bearers. They are acknowledged by our Lord Jesus in his words about "eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb." With all others they are welcome as faithful followers of Jesus Christ and should embrace their biological sex insofar as it may be known.

WE DENY that ambiguities related to a person's biological sex render one incapable of living a fruitful life in joyful obedience to Christ.

### **Article 7**

WE AFFIRM that self-conception as male or female should be defined by God's holy purposes in creation and redemption as revealed in Scripture.

WE DENY that adopting a homosexual or transgender self-conception is consistent with God's holy purposes in creation and redemption.

### **Article 8**

WE AFFIRM that people who experience sexual attraction for the same sex may live a rich and fruitful life pleasing to God through faith in Jesus Christ, as they, like all Christians, walk in purity of life.

WE DENY that sexual attraction for the same sex is part of the natural goodness of God's original creation, or that it puts a person outside the hope of the gospel.

### **Article 9**

WE AFFIRM that sin distorts sexual desires by directing them away from the marriage covenant and toward sexual immorality—a distortion that includes both heterosexual and homosexual immorality.

WE DENY that an enduring pattern of desire for sexual immorality justifies sexually immoral behavior.

### **Article 10**

WE AFFIRM that it is sinful to approve of homosexual immorality or transgenderism and that such approval constitutes an essential departure from Christian faithfulness and witness.

WE DENY that the approval of homosexual immorality or transgenderism is a matter of moral indifference about which otherwise faithful Christians should agree to disagree.

### **Article 11**

WE AFFIRM our duty to speak the truth in love at all times, including when we speak to or about one another as male or female.

WE DENY any obligation to speak in such ways that dishonor God's design of his image-bearers as male and female.

### **Article 12**

WE AFFIRM that the grace of God in Christ gives both merciful pardon and transforming power, and that this pardon and power enable a follower of Jesus to put to death sinful desires and to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.

WE DENY that the grace of God in Christ is insufficient to forgive all sexual sins and to give power for holiness to every believer who feels drawn into sexual sin.

### **Article 13**

WE AFFIRM that the grace of God in Christ enables sinners to forsake transgender self-conceptions and by divine forbearance to accept the God-ordained link between one's biological sex and one's self-conception as male or female.

WE DENY that the grace of God in Christ sanctions self-conceptions that are at odds with God's revealed will.

### **Article 14**

WE AFFIRM that Christ Jesus has come into the world to save sinners and that through Christ's death and resurrection forgiveness of sins and eternal life are available to every person who repents of sin and trusts in Christ alone as Savior, Lord, and supreme treasure.

WE DENY that the Lord's arm is too short to save or that any sinner is beyond his reach.

### Scripture References\*

Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-24; Ex. 20:14; 20:17; Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Dt. 5:18, 21; 22:5; Jdg. 19:22; 2 Sam. 11:1-12:15; Job 31:1; Ps. 51:1-19; Prov. 5:1-23; 6:20-35; 7:1-27; Isa. 59:1; Mal. 2:14; Matt. 5:27-30; 19:4-6, 8-9, 12; Acts 15:20, 29; Rom. 1:26-27; 1:32; 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 18-20; 7:1-7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 4:15, 20-24; 5:31-32; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; 1 Tim. 1:9-10, 15; 2 Tim. 2:22; Titus 2:11-12; Heb. 13:4; Jas. 1:14-15; 1 Pet. 2:11; Jude 7

\* *Scripture texts are not a part of the original document but have been added subsequently for reference*

### Initial Signatories

*Institutional affiliation for identification purposes only*

**Denny Burk**

President, Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

**John Piper**

Founder & Teacher, Desiring God  
Chancellor, Bethlehem Seminary and College

**James Dobson**

Founder, Focus on the Family

**Russell Moore**

President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

**J. I. Packer**

Professor of Theology, Regent College

**Wayne Grudem**

Research Professor of Theology and Biblical Studies, Phoenix Seminary

**R. Albert Mohler, Jr.**

President, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Tony Perkins**

President, Family Research Council

**D. A. Carson**

Research Professor of New Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

**John MacArthur**

Pastor, Grace Community Church  
President, The Master's Seminary and College

**Sam Allberry**

Speaker & Apologist, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries

**R. C. Sproul**

Founder & Chairman, Ligonier Ministries

**Rosaria Butterfield**

Author of *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*

**Francis Chan**

Author & Pastor, We Are Church

**Marvin Olasky**

Editor in Chief, World Magazine

**Ligon Duncan**

Chancellor & CEO, Reformed Theological Seminary

**Steve Gaines**

President, The Southern Baptist Convention  
Pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church

**Andrew T. Walker**

Director of Policy Studies, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

**H. B. Charles, Jr.**

Pastor, Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church

**Christopher Yuan**

Speaker & Author, Moody Bible Institute

**Dennis Rainey**

Founder & Former President, FamilyLife

**Frank Page**

President & CEO, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee  
Former SBC President

**Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth**

Author & Speaker, Revive Our Hearts

**Daniel L. Akin**

President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Kevin DeYoung**

Senior Pastor, Christ Covenant Church

**Alistair Begg**

Reverend, Parkside Church

**Heath Lambert**

Executive Director, Association of Certified Biblical Counselors

**Jerry A. Johnson**

President & CEO, National Religious Broadcasters

**Mark Dever**

Pastor, Capitol Hill Baptist Church

**Randy Alcorn**

Director, Eternal Perspectives Ministries

**Karen Swallow Prior**  
Professor of English, Liberty  
University

**James MacDonald**  
Founder and Senior Pastor, Harvest  
Bible Chapel  
Former SBC President

**J. D. Greear**  
Pastor, The Summit Church

**Bryant Wright**  
Senior Pastor, Johnson Ferry Baptist  
Church  
Former SBC President

**Johnny Hunt**  
Pastor, FBC Woodstock  
Former SBC President

**Mark L. Bailey**  
President & Senior Professor of Bible  
Exposition, Dallas Theological  
Seminary

**David French**  
Senior Writer, National Review

**Jeff Iorg**  
President, Gateway Seminary

**Barbara Rainey**  
Co-Founder, Family

**Ronnie Floyd**  
Senior Pastor, Cross Church  
Former SBC President

**Matt Carter**  
Pastor of Preaching and Vision, The  
Austin Stone Church

**Eric Teetsel**  
President, Family Policy Alliance of  
Kansas

**Ray Ortlund**  
Pastor, Immanuel Church

**Matt Chandler**  
Pastor, The Village Church

**James Merritt**  
Pastor, Cross Pointe Church  
Former SBC President

**Darryl Delhousaye**  
President, Phoenix Seminary  
pte

**Don Sweeting**  
President, Colorado Christian  
University

**Jason K. Allen**  
President, Midwestern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

**K. Erik Thoennes**  
Professor and Chair of Theology,  
Talbot School of Theology, Biola  
University

**Paige Patterson**  
President, Southwestern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

**Sam Storms**  
Lead Pastor for Preaching and Vision,  
Bridgeway Church

**Robert A. J. Gagnon**  
Scholar and Author of *The Bible and  
Homosexual Practice*

**C. J. Mahaney**  
Senior Pastor, Sovereign Grace Church  
of Louisville

**Chuck Kelley**  
President, New Orleans Baptist  
Theological Seminary

**Alastair Roberts**  
Scholar & Author of *Heirs Together: A  
Theology of the Sexes*

**O. S. Hawkins**  
President, GuideStone SBC

**Fred Luter**  
Senior Pastor, Franklin Avenue  
Baptist Church  
Former SBC President

**Jack Graham**  
Pastor, Prestonwood Baptist  
Church

**Thomas White**  
President, Cedarville University

**Jeff Purswell**  
Director of Theology, Sovereign  
Grace Churches

**Erick-Woods Erickson**  
Editor in Chief, The Resurgent

**Vaughan Roberts**  
Rector of St. Ebbe's Church,  
Oxford, UK

**R. Kent Hughes**  
Visiting Professor of Practical  
Theology, Evangelism and Culture,  
Westminster Theological Seminary

**Richard Land**  
President, Southern Evangelical  
Seminary

**Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver**  
President, Union University

**Jason G. Duesing**  
Provost, Midwestern Baptist  
Theological Seminary & College

**Burk Parsons**  
Copastor, St. Andrew's Chapel

**Kevin Ezell**  
President, North American Mission  
Board

**Thom S. Rainer**  
President & CEO, LifeWay  
Christian Resources

**Michael Reeves**  
President and Professor of Theology,  
Union School of Theology, UK

**Randy Stinson**  
Senior VP for Academic  
Administration and Provost, The  
Southern Baptist Theological  
Seminary

**Thomas Schreiner**  
Professor of New Testament  
Interpretation, The Southern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

**Miguel Nuñez**  
Pastor, Iglesia Bautista International,  
Dominican Republic

**Joel Belz**  
Founder, World Magazine, World  
News Group

**Dick Lucas**  
Reverend Presbendary, Rector  
Emeritus, St. Helen's Bishopgate, UK

**Christiana Holcomb**  
Legal Counsel, Alliance Defending  
Freedom

**Anthony Kidd**  
Pastor of Preaching, Community of  
Faith Bible Church

**Owen Strachan**  
Associate Professor of Christian  
Theology, Midwestern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

**Candi Finch**  
Assistant Professor of Theology in  
Women's Studies, Southwestern  
Baptist Theological Seminary

**James Robison**  
Founder & President, LIFE Outreach  
International  
Founder & Publisher, *The Stream*

**William Philip**  
Senior Minister, The Tron Church,  
Glasgow, UK

**Todd Wagner**  
Pastor, Watermark Community Church

**Mac Brunson**  
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of  
Jacksonville

**H. Wayne House**  
Academic Dean and Distinguished  
Research Professor, Faith International  
University

**Bruce Ware**  
Professor of Christian Theology, The  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Michael Horton**  
J. Gresham Machen Professor of  
Theology and Apologetics,  
Westminster Seminary California

**Afshin Ziafat**  
Lead Pastor, Providence Church

**Jimmy Draper**  
President Emeritus, LifeWay  
Former SBC President

**James M. Hamilton, Jr.**  
Professor of Biblical Theology, The  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Chris Larson**  
President & CEO, Ligonier Ministries

**Curtis Woods**  
Associate Executive Director,  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**C. Ben Mitchell**  
Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy,  
Union University

**David Mathis**  
Executive Editor, *Desiring God*

**John M. Frame**  
Professor Emeritus of Systematic  
Theology and Philosophy,  
Reformed Theological Seminary

**Paul Nyquist**  
President, Moody Bible Institute

**J. P. Moreland**  
Distinguished Professor of  
Philosophy, Talbot School of  
Theology, Biola University

**Michael Goeke**  
Associate Pastor, FBC San  
Francisco

**Jacie Hill Perry**  
Speaker, Writer, Humble Beast  
Recording Artist

**Stephen Strang**  
Founder & CEO, Charisma Media

**Stephen J. Wellum**  
Professor of Christian Theology,  
The Southern Baptist Theological  
Seminary

**Bryan Carter**  
Senior Pastor, Concord Church

**Bruce Riley Ashford**  
Provost and Professor of Theology  
& Culture, Southeastern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

**Nathan Finn**  
Dean, School of Theology and  
Missions, Union University

**Darrell Bock**  
Senior Professor, Dallas  
Theological Seminary

**Ken Magnuson**  
Professor of Christian Ethics, The  
Southern Baptist Theological  
Seminary

**Daniel Heimbach**

Senior Professor of Christian Ethics,  
Southeastern Baptist Theological  
Seminary

**Hunter Baker**

Associate Professor, Union University

**John N. Oswalt**

Visiting Distinguished Professor of  
Old Testament, Asbury Theological  
Seminary

**Malcolm B. Yarnell III**

Research Professor of Systematic  
Theology, Southwestern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

**Mark Daniel Liederbach**

Professor & Vice President,  
Southeastern Baptist Theological  
Seminary

**Nathan Lino**

Senior Pastor, Northeast Houston  
Baptist Church

**Andy Naselli**

Associate Professor of New Testament  
and Theology, Bethlehem College &  
Seminary

**Russell Shubin**

Director, Salem Media Group

**Charlotte Akin**

Homemaker, Southeastern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

**E. Calvin Beisner**

Founder & National Spokesman,  
Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship  
of Creation

**James A. Borland**

Professor of New Testament  
& Theology, Liberty University

**Jose Abella**

Lead Pastor, Providence Road Church

**Hershael W. York**

Professor of Christian Preaching, The  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Dorothy Kelley Patterson**

Professor of Theology in Women's  
Studies, Southwestern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

**Jack Deere**

Author and Speaker, Grace Church

**Jonathan Leeman**

Editorial Director, 9Marks

**Matthew J. Hall**

Dean of Boyce College & Senior VP of  
Academic Innovation, The Southern  
Baptist Theological Seminary

**Paul Weber**

President & CEO, Family Policy  
Alliance

**John Stevens**

National Director, Fellowship of  
Independent Evangelical Churches

**Allan Coppedge**

Retired Professor of Theology, Asbury  
Theological Seminary

**David Schrock**

Pastor for Preaching and Theology,  
Occoquan Bible Church

**Donald A. Balasa**

Adjunct Faculty, Trinity International  
University

**Eric C. Redmond**

Assistant Professor of Bible, Moody  
Bible Institute

**Phillip Bethancourt**

Executive Vice President, Ethics &  
Religious Liberty Commission

**Mary Mohler**

Director, Seminary Wives Institute

**Jim Shaddix**

Professor of Expository Preaching,  
Southeastern Baptist Theological  
Seminary

**Juan R. Sanchez**

Senior Pastor, High Pointe Baptist  
Church

**Mary A. Kassian**

Author, Director, Girls Gone Wise

**Micah Fries**

Senior Pastor, Brainerd Baptist  
Church

**Bob Lepine**

Vice President of Content,  
FamilyLife

**Casey B. Hough**

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church  
of Camden

**Daniel DeWitt**

Director of the Center for Biblical  
Apologetics & Public Christianity,  
Cedarville University

**Don Buckley**

Physician, Spanish Trail Family  
Physicians

**Donna Thoennes**

Adjunct Professor and homeschool  
mom, Biola University

**Grant Castleberry**

Pastor of Discipleship, Providence  
Church

**Adam W. Greenway**

Dean, Billy Graham School of  
Missions, Evangelism, & Ministry,  
The Southern Baptist Theological  
Seminary

**Joy White**

Homemaker & Assistant Professor of Women's Studies, Cedarville University

**Rhyne R. Putman**

Associate Professor of Theology and Culture, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

**Peter Jones**

Executive Director, truthXchange

**Jeff Struecker**

Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church

**Daniel Patterson**

Vice President for Operations and Chief of Staff, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

**Sean Perron**

Chief of Staff, The Association of Certified Biblical Counselors

**Jeffrey Riley**

Professor of Ethics, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

**Colby Adams**

Director of Communications, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Gregory Wills**

Dean, School of Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Barry Joslin**

Professor of Christian Theology, Boyce College

**Bryan Baise**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Apologetics, Boyce College

**Rebecca Jones**

Volunteer, truthXchange

**David Talley**

Professor of Old Testament, Biola University

**Michael L. Brown**

President, FIRE School of Ministry

**Dannah Gresh**

Co-founder, Pure Freedom

**Paul Felix**

President, Los Angeles Bible Training School

**Katie McCoy**

Assistant Professor of Theology in Women's Studies, Scarborough College

**Rhonda Kelley**

President's Wife, Adjunct Faculty, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

**Kenneth Keathley**

Senior Professor of Theology, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Evan Lenow**

Associate Professor of Ethics, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Travis Wussow**

VP for Public Policy, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

**Keith Whitfield**

Assistant Professor & Dean, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Matt Damico**

Associate Pastor of Worship, Kenwood Baptist Church

**Colin Smothers**

Executive Director, Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood