

FAITH BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP STATEMENT ON CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

Based on our affirmation that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God with supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct, and our affirmation that Christians should live to the glory of God, (2 Tim 3:16 ¹, 2 Peter 1:20-21 ², 1 Corinthians 10:31 ³)

WE BELIEVE the following about Christian Marriage and Sexuality:

1. The Holy Scriptures reveal God's creation, plan, and will for Christian marriage to be a life-long covenant between one man and one woman. It is a sacred institution ordained by God for the happiness of mankind and the propagation of the human race and the foundation of the family unit. It is both a physical and spiritual union which a man and a woman may enter for the glory of God. (*Genesis 2:21-24* ⁴, *Matthew 19:4-6* ⁵, *Ephesians 5:15, 21-33* ⁶)
2. God's plan is for sexual behavior to be lovingly expressed within Christian marriage. All other sexual behavior, whether heterosexual or homosexual in nature, is immoral and God calls his people to refrain from immoral behavior. (*Leviticus 18:22* ⁷ *Romans 1:21-27* ⁸, *1 Cor. 6:9-11* ⁹, *1 Timothy 1:8-11* ¹⁰, *1 Corinthians 6:18-20* ¹¹)
3. Sexual immorality, as well as every sin, is the result of the fall of humanity into a sinful condition which pervades every person's nature. (*Romans 5:12* ¹², *Romans 3:10-12, 23* ¹³)
4. There is hope of freedom from the sin of sexual immorality through faith in Jesus Christ, who offers healing and forgiveness by the power of the Holy Spirit. (*1 Corinthians 15:3* ¹⁴, *2 Corinthians 3:17* ¹⁵, *2 Corinthians 5:17* ¹⁶, *1 John 1:9* ¹⁷, *Romans 8:26* ¹⁸)
5. The Holy Spirit leads an individual through the process of sanctification, during which the individual recognizes the immoral behavior as sin, renounces that behavior, and embraces a biblical sexual lifestyle. (*1 Corinthians 6:11* ¹⁹, *Acts 3:18-19* ²⁰, *Rom 12:1-2* ²¹)
6. All persons have been created in the image of God and thus we must respond with compassion and patience for those struggling to be free from sexual sin. Furthermore, we believe any hateful harassment or attacks of persons struggling with sexual sin is not acceptable and must be repudiated. (*Genesis 1:26-27* ²², *1 John 4:20-21* ²³, *Ephesians 4:1-3* ²⁴)
7. Respect for persons struggling with sexual sin involves honest, reasoned sharing of biblical truths concerning the immorality and liability of their behavior. We also recognize that endorsing behavior, which the Bible identifies as sin, endangers persons, and dishonors God. (*Romans 10:14-15* ²⁵, *2 Thessalonians 1:7-9* ²⁶, *Romans 6:23* ²⁷)

Therefore, based on these beliefs, Faith Baptist Fellowship resolves that WE SHALL:

1. Be committed to teach and instruct our membership in the biblical model of marriage being between one man and one woman including roles and responsibilities of both husband and wife.
2. Require premarital counseling based on, and agreement with the above guiding beliefs and principles for marriages to be performed on Church property.

3. Not allow any marriage or marriage-like ceremony between two persons of the same gender on Church property. Furthermore, no employee or member of the Church shall conduct such a ceremony as this is contrary to Christian Marriage as ordained by God.
4. Not allow anyone sustaining an unrepentant sexual lifestyle or who believes and teaches contrary to the biblical position as outlined above to hold a leadership, staff, or teaching position within the Church.

Verses:

1. [1 Corinthians 10:31 \(ESV\)](#) - *"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*
2. [2 Timothy 3:16-17 \(ESV\)](#) - *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*
3. [2 Peter 1:20-21 \(ESV\)](#) - *"knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*
4. [Genesis 2:21-24 \(ESV\)](#) - *"So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*
5. [Matthew 19:4-6 \(ESV\)](#) - *"He answered, 'Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"? 'So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.'"*
6. [Ephesians 5:15, 21-33 \(ESV\)](#) - *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ... submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ...In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."*
7. [Leviticus 18:22 \(ESV\)](#) - *"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination."*

8. [Romans 1:21-27 \(ESV\)](#) - *"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error."*
9. [1 Corinthians 6:9-11 \(ESV\)](#) - *"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*
10. [1 Timothy 1:8-11 \(ESV\)](#) - *"Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted."*
11. [1 Corinthians 6:18-20 \(ESV\)](#) - *"Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."*
12. [Romans 5:12 \(ESV\)](#) - *"Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned"*
13. [Romans 3:10-12, 23 \(ESV\)](#) - *"as it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.'...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"*
14. [1 Corinthians 15:3 \(ESV\)](#) - *"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,"*
15. [2 Corinthians 3:17 \(ESV\)](#) - *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."*
16. [2 Corinthians 5:17 \(ESV\)](#) - *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

17. *1 John 1:9 (ESV) - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
18. *Romans 8:26 (ESV) - "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."*
19. *1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV) - "And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*
20. *Acts 3:18-19 (ESV) - "But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,"*
21. *Romans 12:1-2 (ESV) - "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*
22. *Genesis 1:26-27 (ESV) - "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*
23. *1 John 4:20-21 (ESV) - "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."*
24. *Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV) - "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*
25. *Romans 10:14-15 (ESV) - "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'"*
26. *2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (ESV) - "...and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,"*
27. *Romans 6:23 (ESV) - "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*