



MRBC seeks to glorify God and obey His commands through publicly worshipping Him; establishing believers in the faith through the preaching and teaching of the Word of God; encouraging biblical fellowship among believers; caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of believers through the “one-another’s” of Scripture; administering the New Testament ordinances of baptism and communion; and seeking the salvation of all men everywhere by promoting, supporting, and participating in the furtherance of the gospel.

As such, we have developed the following statement to guide these principles in all ministries:

***We exist to magnify God and spread a passion for His glory by making disciples and shepherding them to value Jesus Christ above all else, in every dimension of life, as regulated by the Word of God.***

Because our ministry is regulated by the Word of God, the Bible determines our concepts of maleness and femaleness. The Bible says God “created man in His own image” (Gen 1:26) and that He “created them male and female” (Gen 1:26; Mark 10:6). Thus, one’s biological sex, male or female, is a good gift of God, fundamental to being an image bearer. We believe that sex and gender are synonyms, not distinct concepts. At conception, a human is created as either a biological male or female; likewise, gender is an immutable, exclusively binary characteristic rooted in the physiology of each human being at conception.

Because of these beliefs, we teach that a person’s self-conception should be defined by God’s holy purposes in creation and redemption as revealed in Scripture. Because God’s Word so clearly describes His creation of men and women, the claim to have a “gender identity” contrary to His creation or any blurring of the biological connection or boundary between maleness and femaleness – whether in dress (such as transvestism), sexuality (“transsexual” or “nonbinary”), gender identity (such as “transgender identity”) or gender expression (Deut 22:5) – is contrary to biblical standards or teaching. Seeking fundamental changes from one’s biological sex is a rejection of the biblical and theological understandings to which MRBC is committed.

Our ministry events should not be used to encourage or make others complicit in sin or deceit. Because we believe and teach that it is sinful to approve of behavior that departs from biblical standards (Rom 1:18–31), ongoing participation in the ministries of MRBC requires that the men and women participating present themselves truthfully and in ways that are consistent with their biological sex. Such ways may include, but are not limited to, pronouns, bathrooms, locker rooms, assigned sleeping arrangements, groupings, classes, etc. Those who refuse to present themselves consistently with their biological sex will not be allowed to participate in our ministries in ways that undermine our foundational beliefs. Such ways may include, but are not limited to, cross-dressing, and other expressions or actions that are deliberately inconsistent with biological sex. Because we believe that responding to Jesus Christ in repentance is multi-faceted, decisions about participation will be handled on a case-by-case basis in a pastorally sensitive manner. Every case should be immediately brought to the attention of a Pastor or Elder before any correction takes place.

We believe that marriage is ordained by God as a covenant relationship between one biological man and one biological woman. Thus, we will only recognize marriages between one biological man and one biological woman.



We believe God gave the gift of sex to be enjoyed exclusively within the context of marriage between a biological man and a biological woman. Thus, we teach that any sexual conduct other than heterosexuality, exclusively within the context of marriage, is a deviation from God's good design for men and women.

In seeking to make disciples and shepherd them to value Jesus Christ above all else, our ministry extends to individuals who may struggle with their gender identity or sexual orientation. Because we believe and teach that the grace of God in Christ enables sinners to forsake such struggles, no individual will be turned away from any event because he or she struggles with his or her gender identity or sexual orientation. We welcome all to participate in our public ministry events, so long as MRBC is not required to contradict its religious commitments.

While not formally part of the Church's Statement of Faith, the Elders commend the following statements as helpful guides concerning MRBC's understanding of the historic, biblical teaching on gender, marriage, and sexuality.

The Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.

<https://cbmw.org/about/danvers-statement/>

The Nashville Statement: a Coalition on Biblical Sexuality

<https://cbmw.org/nashville-statement/>