



## **Rivertown Church Statement of Faith:**

### *Marriage and Human Sexuality*

#### Preamble

We believe that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated on the basis of Holy Scripture, which is our infallible guide (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Since the Holy Bible does speak to the nature of human beings and their sexuality, it is imperative that we correctly understand and articulate what the Bible teaches on these matters.

We are committed to the home and family as set forth in Holy Scripture. We believe God has ordained and created marriage to exist between one man and one woman, with absolute marital fidelity. The Bible sets forth specific home and family values, which include the distinct roles of husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and children. It is our firm conviction that we uphold the dignity of each individual as we embrace the unchanging and longstanding principles of scriptural truth.

#### Religious Beliefs

Based on Holy Scripture and the constant moral teaching of the universal Church, we believe:

- Marriage – Rivertown Church defines marriage as the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” union of one man and one woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. (Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 2:18-24, Matthew 19:4-9, Mark 10:5-9, Ephesians 5:31-33)
- Sexual Immorality – Rivertown Church believes that sexual acts outside marriage are prohibited as sinful. Consequently, Rivertown Church members must resist and refrain from any and all sexual acts outside marriage – including but not limited to adultery, fornication, incest, zoophilia, pornography, prostitution, masturbation, voyeurism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, sodomy, polygamy, polyamory, sologamy, or same-sex sexual acts. (Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 18:7-23, Leviticus 20:10-21, Deuteronomy 5:18, Matthew 15:19, Matthew 5:27-28, Matthew 15:19, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 4:17-19, Colossians 3:5)
- Sexual Identity – Rivertown Church believes that God created mankind in His image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity. Consequently, Rivertown Church members must affirm their biological sex and refrain from any and all attempts to physically change, alter, or disagree with their predominant biological sex – including but not limited to elective sex-reassignment, transvestite, transgender, or non-binary “genderqueer” acts or conduct. (Genesis 1:26-28, Romans 1:26-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- Sexual Orientation – Rivertown Church believes that God created and ordered human sexuality to the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” union of man and woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. Consequently, Rivertown Church members must affirm the sexual complementarity of man and woman and resist any and all same-sex sexual



attractions and refrain from any and all same-sex sexual acts or conduct, which are intrinsically disordered. (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:5-9, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-9, Revelation 21:2)

- Sexual Redemption – Rivertown Church believes that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and should seek redemption through confession, repentance, baptism, and faith in Jesus Christ. Consequently, Rivertown Church members must welcome and treat with respect, compassion, and sensitivity all who experience same-sex attractions or confess sexually immoral acts but are committed to resisting sexual temptation, refraining from sexual immorality, and conforming their behavior to Rivertown Church's Statement of Faith. (Matthew 11:28-30, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16)

- Celibacy – Rivertown Church believes that Holy Scripture grants two life-enhancing options for human sexual behavior: (1) the conjugal "one flesh" marital union of one man and one woman, and (2) celibacy. Either is a gift from God, given as He wills for His glory and the good of those who receive and rejoice in His gift to them. Celibacy and faithful singleness is to be celebrated and affirmed within the Rivertown Church. (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18, 21-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:5-8; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:1-8; Matthew 19:12; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Romans 12:10; 1 Timothy 5:1-2)

#### **Biblical Bases:**

##### Marriage and Human Sexuality

Genesis 1:26-28  
Genesis 2:18-24  
Genesis 19:5-10  
Exodus 20:14  
Leviticus 18:7-23  
Leviticus 20:10-21  
Deuteronomy 5:18  
Judges 19:22-24  
Matthew 5:27-28  
Matthew 15:19  
Matthew 19:4-9  
Mark 10:5-9  
Romans 1:26-27  
1 Corinthians 6:9-13  
1 Corinthians 5:21  
Galatians 5:19  
Ephesians 4:17-19  
Ephesians 5:25-27  
Ephesians 5:31  
Colossians 3:5  
1 Thessalonians 4:3



Hebrews 13:4  
1 Timothy 1:8-10  
Jude 1:7  
Revelation 19:7-9  
Revelation 21:2

#### Pastoral Care

Matthew 11:28-30  
Romans 3:23  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
1 Corinthians 10:13  
Hebrews 2:17-18  
Hebrews 4:14-16

#### Application

All of our members, employees, and volunteers must affirm and adhere to this Doctrinal and Religious Absolute statement on marriage and human sexuality to qualify for involvement with the ministry. This is necessary to accomplish our religious mission, goals and purpose. Behavior or counter-witnessing that does otherwise will impede and burden our integrity and religious mission. We believe that God's grace can wipe the slate of guilt and sin, though the consequences are still incurred.

#### Authority

The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God, acting as the source of authority over morality, our beliefs, Christian lifestyle and conduct. Rivertown Elders are charged with the ministerial responsibility of Biblical interpretation and promulgating religious policy. The Elders of Rivertown Church will determine life application as well as final matters relating to church theology, philosophy, Christian practice, faith, divine truth, morality, and theological and doctrinal resolutions.