

RESOLUTION: STATEMENT ON BIBLICAL SEXUALITY

Wichita Falls Faith Mission, Inc. (WFFMI) is an organization that since its inception has embraced the historic traditional Christian understanding of Scripture and its teachings with regard to human sexuality, marriage, and the family. Accordingly, we affirm sexuality is a gift from God and basic to human identity and that sexual intimacy is to take place within the context of a marriage covenant between a man and a woman in which they vow and commit, with God's help, to build a loving, life-giving, faithful relationship that will last for a lifetime (Genesis 2:18, 21-24; Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:4-9).

The sexual union between a husband and wife has been designed by God to bring them together as "one flesh," creating the context within which to build a family and to serve as a symbol of the holy relationship between Jesus Christ and his Church (Genesis 2:18-24, Ephesians 5:31-32). Jesus affirms the marital covenant as existing between a man and a woman (Matthew 19:4-9). By God's design, marriage also serves as the cornerstone for biological reproduction and the subsequent raising and teaching of children to become responsible members of society. The New Testament teaches that followers of Jesus are to remain celibate outside the covenant of marriage.

A person who engages in sexual unions outside the bond of marriage sins against his or her own body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). The Bible expressly forbids such acts as adultery, homosexual acts, fornication, rape, incest, prostitution, and bestiality. (See, e.g., Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:6-23, 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 5:18; Acts 15:20; Romans 1:24-28; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Galatians 5:19; 1 Timothy 1:10.)

While affirming these teachings on the divine purpose of marriage and human sexuality, WFFMI also affirms the Biblical truth that all human beings have value, dignity, and eternal worth because they are created by God and bear his image. Treating others with contempt or disrespect for any reason is unacceptable as it denies the dignity given to human beings by their Creator. For example, gossip about adulterers, disrespect toward prostitutes, and denigration of people because of their sexual or gender preferences are just as wrong and dishonoring to the character of God and teachings of the Bible, as is the underlying conduct.

WFFMI regards the practice of sexual activity outside the bounds of a monogamous heterosexual marriage as a departure from Biblical teaching and Christian virtue and as disqualifying from eligibility for staff and volunteer positions. While WFFMI does not regard the practice of sexual sin as a worse evil than other sin (all sin further damages the image of God in us and others), it acknowledges the unique and devastating effects of sexual sin, which compromises our personhood and bodies, which are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

WFFMI recognizes that civil rights and Biblical morality standards are not necessarily co-extensive, and therefore, that unbiblical sexual preferences should not disqualify one from just application of the law. It does resist, however, the current cultural effort in the name of tolerance to entrench Biblically disapproved sexual practices as morally normative. WFFMI recognizes the natural, constitutional, and

legal rights of religious organizations to make employment decisions based on religious and faith criteria such as one's convictions and practices regarding human sexuality and other moral issues. Therefore, WFFMI seeks to freely engage in associations for the advancement of its Biblical beliefs by aligning in ministry as board members and staff, and volunteers with only those persons who practice behavior and advocate beliefs that are fully compatible with Biblical teaching.

Staff employees who train volunteers must use teaching materials consistent with the Statement of Faith, policies, and standards of WFFMI and must be assured that volunteers live in conformity with such teaching. To safeguard volunteer morale and the integrity of our programs, it is necessary that prospective volunteers be aware of these standards, and that they be discussed with volunteers already engaged as soon as questions may arise. Conformity to WFFMI standards is not assured by membership in a specific church, although church membership in good standing is expected as evidence of submission to a local spiritual authority.

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