

**FAITH BIBLE CHURCH
POSITION PAPER
HUMAN SEXUALITY**

SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

Preamble

Faith Bible Church (hereinafter “FBC,” “we” or “our”) believes that God created man and woman in His image to bear His glory, and prior to the fall were perfect and very good (Genesis 1).

We believe that the results of the choice of Adam and Eve to disobey God’s command in Genesis 3 affects all creation, including men and women. Adam’s sin plunged all his descendants into slavery to sin, separation from God, hopelessness and warped all their relationships. Apart from a relationship with Christ, all humanity remains in this eternally tragic condition (John 3:16; 15:5; Romans 3:23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:11-22).

We believe that God speaks through the Bible (2 Peter 1:20–21), that Scripture alone is the final source of wisdom and knowledge, and that it alone contains God’s plan for reconciliation between a Holy God and sinful mankind.

We believe that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated on the basis of Scripture, which is our infallible guide (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

We believe the Bible clearly defines the nature of human beings, human sexuality, and the biblically acceptable behavior that God requires from those who serve Him. Therefore, it is imperative that we correctly understand and articulate what the Bible teaches on these matters. We believe that the Bible is the governing authority even in matters where society, government, or practical expediency contradict the Bible.

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.

We believe that all men and women, including those who disagree with our understanding of Scripture on this topic, remain the object of God’s redeeming love.

Our Positions

We adhere to the following positions based on Scripture:

- **Sexuality in Marriage** — God created mankind in His image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity (Genesis 1:26-28). We believe that God designed sexual intimacy as a special bond to be shared only between one man and one woman who are bound together by marriage (Genesis 2:24 and 1 Corinthians 7:1–4).

- **Marriage** — For a comprehensive definition of “marriage,” please see FBC’s “Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage” Position Paper.

- **Sexual Immorality** — God designed sexual union for a husband and wife within the bonds of marriage. Any sexual acts outside of marriage are prohibited by Scripture, and therefore are a violation of God’s law and are sinful. Consequently, FBC members must resist and refrain from any and all sexual lust and sexual acts outside of marriage (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:7-23; Leviticus 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 5:27-28; Matthew 15:19; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-13; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 4:17-19; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 13:4).

- **Sexual Identity and Orientation** — As sexual beings created specifically by God, individuals should embrace their biological sexual identity and refrain from any and all attempts to physically change, alter, or disagree with their biological sex. God created and ordered human sexuality for the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive and conjugal “one flesh” union of man and woman. Certain key aspects of this union are procreation, sexual enjoyment and the furtherance of the biological family. Consequently, FBC members must affirm the sexual complementarity of man and woman and resist any and all same-sex sexual lust, and refrain from any and all same-sex sexual acts or conduct (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** — All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and should seek forgiveness and redemption through confession, repentance, and faith in Jesus Christ. Consequently, FBC members must welcome and treat everyone with respect, compassion, and sensitivity, including those who have engaged or are currently engaged in sexual immorality. However, FBC members have the responsibility to gently and lovingly confront and correct those who are a part of the body of FBC and are not committed to resisting sexual temptation, refraining from sexual immorality, and conforming their behavior to Scripture (Matthew 11:28-30, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 Timothy 5:20, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16, Jude 22-23).

- **Celibacy** — Scripture grants two life-enhancing options for human sexual behavior: (1) the conjugal “one flesh” marital union of one man and one woman (discussed above), and (2) celibacy. Both are gifts 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 are to be celebrated and affirmed within FBC (Matthew 19:12; Romans 12:10; 1 Corinthians 7:1-8, 32-34; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:1-2).

Application

All FBC members, employees, and volunteers must affirm and adhere to this Position Paper on marriage and human sexuality in order to qualify for service in the ministry of FBC. This is necessary to accomplish our religious mission, goals and purpose. We believe that God’s grace can wipe clean the slate of guilt and sin, though the consequences are still incurred. We believe that behavior that is contrary to our Position Paper will impede and burden our integrity and religious mission and cause our Lord Jesus Christ grief. The leadership at FBC will not condone such behavior and will take appropriate action.

[Ref. FBC Position Paper: “Caring Enough To Confront”]

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. The FBC Board of Elders is charged with the responsibility of Biblical interpretation and promulgating religious policy at FBC. The FBC Board of Elders will evaluate and address life application as well as final matters relating to church theology, philosophy, Christian practice, faith, divine truth, morality, and theological and doctrinal resolutions.