

Proposed Article 16
Hesperia Community Church and Christian School
Statement of Gender, Sexuality, and Marriage

Introduction

The Bible is inspired, inerrant, and infallible as originally given is God's Word and the only rule for faith and practice. In order to understand the application of Biblical principles in our context, the leaders of Hesperia Community Church and Christian School apply their God-given gifts and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, make interpretations of the Bible which are reflected in our Doctrinal Statement. These leaders have the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application at Hesperia Community Church and Christian School.

We believe that God offers forgiveness, redemption, and restoration to all who repent of sin of all kinds, including the topics discussed in this statement. Our ministry stands ready to walk alongside any repentant person who decides to battle against sin. (Romans 7:7-24, 1 John 1:9)

Statement on Gender

We believe that God created humanity with two distinct genders: male and female. Both genders are equal in value but different in role. All of humanity is created in the image of God and therefore has innate value and worth. We believe that when someone chooses to reject their biological gender, they are rejecting the Image of God placed within them. (Genesis 1-2, Psalm 139:13-14)

Statement on Marriage

We believe that God created and ordained the marriage union and set its parameters within the structure of a monogamous union between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2, Matthew 19:3-9, Ephesians 5:21-33)

Statement on Sexual Practices

We believe that any and all forms of sexual expression outside the bounds of marriage are considered sexual immorality and therefore are sinful practices. This includes, but is not limited to, adultery, fornication, homosexual practices, bisexual practices, transvestitism, bestiality, incest, and pornography. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Hebrews 13:4)

Conclusion

We believe that in order to preserve the integrity and mission of each respective organization as the body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical picture of God's design and plan for mankind in the areas of gender and sexual activity, it is imperative that all employees and all volunteers agree to abide by this statement of gender, marriage, and sexual practice.

Those who attend Hesperia Community Church, or its ministries, will be taught these truths in age-appropriate, grace-filled ways as such topics arise in the normal course of ministry.