

*Adopted by Cornerstone's Elders November 11, 2015  
Amended November 18, 2015*



### **Statement on Sexuality, Gender, and Marriage**

We believe God designed gender and sex for holy purposes (Gen 1:27-28; 2:24; 4:1). Marriage, celibacy, and faithful singleness are all to be celebrated and affirmed in the church (Genesis 2:21-24; Matthew 19:1-12; Hebrews 13:4).

We believe God created human beings male and female, (Genesis 1:27). We believe it is displeasing to God and contrary to God's natural law for one to change, or, attempt to change, his/her physical gender because of a perceived psychological identification with another gender. (Genesis 1:26-28; Romans 1:26-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

We believe that marriage is a lifelong, exclusive, God-ordained covenantal union between a man and a woman intended to reflect the relationship between Christ and the Church. (Gen 2:18-25; Mark 10:5-9; Ephesians 5:31-32). Only marriage ceremonies fitting the above definition may use Cornerstone assets or be officiated by Cornerstone members.

We believe that all sexual acts outside of marriage are sinful and displeasing to the Lord (Rom. 13:13-14; 1 Cor. 5:1-2; 6:16; Eph 5:3; 1 Thess. 4:7; Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:8-11).

We believe that temptations, including sexual attractions, are not sin. Jesus himself was tempted, yet without sin (Matt. 4:1-11, Heb. 4:14-15). Sin is yielding to temptation (James 1:14-15). We believe that because all people sin and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23) we must each seek redemption in Jesus Christ (Rom 6:23). We welcome and will treat with respect, compassion, and sensitivity all who are lost and in need of Christ's forgiveness (Jn 3:16; Rom 5:8). Once Christ has transformed a person they will strive to resist sexual temptation, and, with the power of the Holy Spirit, refrain from sexual immorality (Ephesians 2:1-10, I Corinthians 10:13, 2 Tim 2:22; 1 Pet 1:13-16; 1 John 3:9)