

CEFC Statement and Position on Marriage

Our understanding of marriage is derived exclusively from the inspired Word of God, the Bible, which this local body of the greater Body of believers will support and elders will defend as charged by God. In seeking to keep our demonstrated commitment to our Creator sound and complete, we express our witness to the veracity of the Scriptures and their application to all areas of faith and practice by affirming the following:

A. Marriage – We believe that marriage has been instituted and ordained by God, and is defined as the exclusive conventional union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment, a covenant. It is neither lawful for any man to have more than one wife nor any woman to have more than one husband. Marriage is ordained by God both for believers and unbelievers but Christians are to marry only Christians. A civil government's sanction of any union will be recognized as legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the Biblical definition of marriage.

(Genesis 2:24-26; Mal. 2:15; Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9; 1 Cor. 7:39; 2 Cor. 6:14)

B. Human Sexuality – Marriage was designed solely by God and is for the mutual benefit of both husband and wife, for the increase in mankind according to biblical direction, and for the prevention of immorality while seeking sexual purity. We believe that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Any sexual activities outside of marriage, including but not limited to, adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, any form of fornication, bestiality, sodomy, transgender behavior, the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, and pedophilia, are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible, the church, and are incompatible with the biblical witness. The New Testament Church is described as the Body of Christ, where Jesus is united with the Body of the church in the same essence husbands and wives are united in one flesh. That unique and intimate loving relationship demonstrated in unity is the reflection of our personal relationship with Christ.

(Gen. 1:28; 2:18; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 7:2, 9; 1 Thess. 4:3-5; Eph. 5:5, 31-32; Heb. 13:4)

C. Family – We believe that the roles of husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, and children are clearly stated in the Scriptures, including the principles of discipline, instruction, and correction. When found to conflict with laws and/or social norms, we will follow the biblical principles addressing any such issues which may arise or become apparent. God has ordained marriage and the relationship between one man (husband) and one woman (wife) who are to complement one another in mutual submission toward one another. In the relationship, the husband's primary role is to be a loving servant leader while the wife's primary role is to be a nurturing helpmate, both seeking to demonstrate Christ-likeness through mutual submission to Christ and one another.

(Gen 1:18, 24; Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Pet 3:1-7; Eph. 6:1-4)

D. Compassion – We believe that love and respect are due and are to be offered to all people, recognizing we are all created in the image of God. However, when the Scriptures speak against other philosophies, belief systems, and behaviors, we will be true to the Scriptures and will speak the truth and will do so in love.

(Rom. 3:4; Eph. 4:14-16)

Accepted and Adopted CEFC Elder Board, July 2015