

Sex and Gender:

We believe that God is the creator of everything and everyone and has created every human in His image as male or female. We believe that human sexuality is determined by God and is to be expressed between one man and one woman in the context of a marriage relationship. Therefore, we teach that any pursuit or expression of sexuality or gender that is outside of God's created order is sin and is an expression of the rebellion of the human heart and our need for forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that while gender and sexuality are good gifts from God, they are not to be understood as that which determines and defines the sum total of an individual's identity and purpose in life.

We believe that all humans are created in the image of God and therefore deserve to be treated with dignity, love, and respect regardless of their sexual preference or lifestyle. We do not believe that homosexuality makes anyone more deserving of God's wrath than any other sin. We believe that the essence and hope of the gospel is not first heterosexuality, but is justice and reconciliation before God. This means that regardless of the particular expression of sin, all of humanity is in need of salvation through Jesus Christ. In other words, we view any sexual expression, whether homosexual or heterosexual, that is outside of God's created intention as being sinful and in need of God's grace.

Race:

We believe that all people are created in the image of God and deserve to be treated with dignity and honor as image bearers. We fundamentally reject any attitude, action, or institution that discriminates against, denies opportunity to, or seeks to harm anyone on the basis of their ethnicity. We believe that differences in race, culture, and ethnicity are to be celebrated amongst Christians and within the church as a beautiful display of, and apologetic for, the reconciling work of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We believe that one's cultural identity is not dissolved by the gospel, but is instead redeemed as culturally informed actions and attitudes that stand opposed to Biblical ethics and authority are transformed for the glory of God and good humanity. Therefore, we believe that gospel-informed multiculturalism is not only a social ideal, but a beautiful expression of the unifying power of the gospel as Christians anticipate eternity with those from every tribe, tongue, and nation in the new heavens and new earth.

Life:

We believe that life is sacred and begins at conception. We believe that all life is a gift from God that is to be honored, respected, preserved, and protected. We understand that there are extenuating circumstances that would make abortion appear to be a viable option for some, yet we believe that the Lord alone is the one with the right to give and take away life from any living thing. We therefore condemn any institution that encourages and/or facilitates the killing of the unborn through abortion advocacy or services.

Should there be a situation where a mother and/or father are unable or unwilling to care for the life of a child, we wholeheartedly affirm foster care and adoption as a viable option. Because true religion is to care for orphans and widows we believe that it is the responsibility of Christians and the church to be actively involved in caring for children in the foster care system whether that be through financial support, support of foster families, foster care participation, or adoption.

Marriage and Divorce:

We believe that God created marriage to be between one man and one woman for life. We believe that marriage is sacred and has been ordained by God as an earthly display of the heavenly reality of his self sacrificial love and relationship with the church, and the church's joyful submission to Christ in all things.

We fundamentally condemn spousal abuse at every level and do not believe that spouses in abusive relationships must continue to cohabitate with their abusive partner. In these instances we affirm the separation of residences for the safety of the individual and/or children involved and strongly advise victims of abuse to notify the proper authorities.

While we believe that divorce is permissible in instances of infidelity or abandonment (specifically in reference to a believer and unbeliever), we do not believe that divorce is required. We believe that God's grace can and does transform even the most desperate situations and therefore believe that reconciliation is the ideal outcome of fractured marriages as the gospel is received and applied in the lives and relationships of men and women.