

DCC Convictions on Gender and Sexuality November 2025

In our world today, questions of gender and sexuality are not only deeply debated in culture but also deeply felt in people's lives. We acknowledge that for some this topic can be immensely personal and, for a myriad of reasons, incredibly painful. As a church, we recognize the importance of addressing these topics with clarity, grace, and truth. Our desire is to state what we believe and to provide a thoughtful foundation for how Door Creek Church seeks to follow Jesus faithfully in these areas. *We do not expect those who do not yet follow Jesus to share our convictions. Our desire is not to impose Christian ethics on others, but to embody and extend Christ's love and invitation to Him.* This paper was written to help guide our church family as we navigate complex questions together, rooted in Scripture (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**), prayer, and the love of Christ (**John 13:34-35**).

This statement is not exhaustive. We cannot fully communicate the width and breadth of God's truth and love in this brief summary. The questions and implications surrounding gender and sexuality need to be worked out in safe, authentic and vulnerable relationships, submitted to King Jesus and his word (**John 17:17**), soaked in prayer and humility (**Philippians 2:3-5**), and saturated with grace and kindness. It is our prayer that this statement invites continued conversation about what it means for Door Creek Church to live this out together.

We believe that the Bible is our ultimate authority; as we center our lives on God's truth this includes how we understand gender and sexuality. The life-giving words of Scripture, rightly understood, have the first and final say.

We believe that every human being is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and is to be treated with the dignity, the worth, and the love due to fellow image-bearers. We expect every person who walks into Door Creek Church, including those who identify as LGBTQ+, to be greeted with Christian kindness and hospitality (**Romans 12:10-13**). We desire to be a Christ-centered church for all people – the way of Jesus is incredibly beautiful, it is for our flourishing (**John 10:10**), and it is radically countercultural (**Romans 12:2**). We believe that all individuals, including our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters, are loved radically by God and are called to be devoted followers of Christ Jesus.

We believe our sexuality and gender are good gifts from God (Genesis 1:27, 31). We believe Jesus calls all of us who follow Him, gay or straight, married or single, to a sexual ethic in which sexual activity is reserved for two biologically sexed different persons in a lifelong covenant union between one man and one woman (**Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6**). We believe God calls his people to a life of holiness (**1 Peter 1:14-16**), and that it is the responsibility of every Christian to turn away from all illicit sexual desire and to steward their sexuality in obedience to Christ. Any sexual activity outside of this union (adultery, pornography, pre-marital sex, same-sex sexual activity, etc.) is sin (**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**) and goes against Jesus' invitation and call for us to follow Him.

Because we live in a world marred by sin that leaves no one and nothing untouched (**Romans 3:23**), **we believe that to be human means to wrestle with sexual sin (Galatians 5:17).** We

acknowledge that we may experience desires toward others and feelings about ourselves that do not accord with the goodness of God's purpose in creating human beings as male and female. Because our sexuality and its social expression are so integral to human identity, we should also expect that these desires and feelings may seem deeply ingrained. Nevertheless, Scripture teaches that we honor God's gift of sexed difference and experience true freedom by seeking to conform our desires and feelings to God's purposes. We do not believe that a person's biological sex should be separated from their self-perception as a man or a woman nor that the body should be altered when it does not conform to that self-perception. In submitting to the means of grace God has given, such as meditation on Scripture, patient prayer, and life together in the church, God sustains his people even in the struggles of this life.

We believe that both singleness and marriage are honored and embraced as valuable and mutually edifying gifts within the diverse family of Jesus (**(1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 32-35)**). We acknowledge that we live in a hyper-sexualized world, yet we don't believe anyone needs to experience marriage and sex in order to fully live and flourish as an image bearer. That means sex and our sexual expression, while a very good gift, is not necessary or ultimate. Recognizing our Door Creek Church community as a family, we will seek ways to encourage deep spiritual relationships and friendships as brothers and sisters in Christ, with a special effort to include those who are single. We will model the counter-cultural reality that intimate, loving relationships need not be sexualized.

We believe wholeheartedly in the grace, kindness, and redemption of Jesus (Titus 3:4-7). Jesus welcomes us as we are and invites us to turn from our ways and to follow Him. The gospel offers us the hope of transformation (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) but not the promise that this transformation will be fully resolved until Christ's return (**Philippians 3:20-21**). In the meantime, we must not minimize the inestimable value of knowing what is real and good and the vital importance of submitting our lives to the truth revealed in Scripture, even when doing so will be and feel costly (**Luke 9:23-24**). We believe that Jesus is faithful and good to redeem our stories and return us wholeness. The path of repentance, holiness, and wholeness in Christ exists for all Christians who wrestle with sexual sin and yet desire to live in faithful obedience to Jesus (**1 John 1:9**).

We exist to be a Christ-centered church for all people, committed to "joining God in changing people into devoted followers of Jesus who change the world with His love." Wherever anyone is on this journey, they are not simply welcome at Door Creek, but they are wanted!

*As a church family, we recognize the need for practical guidance as we walk this out together. Companion resources will be created for children, student, and adult ministries, offering thoughtful direction on matters such as gender-specific ministries, bathrooms, overnights, language, names and pronouns, and how and when to include parents in conversations. These resources will reflect Door Creek Church's convictions on gender and sexuality while seeking to equip our ministries to serve with both clarity and compassion (**Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 3:12-14**).*