



Sojourners Statement of Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality

We believe that God creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex^[1] is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.) We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Sojourners Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to our members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Sojourners Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.) We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.) We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Sojourners Church.

Statement of Final Authority for Matters of Faith and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Sojourners Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our elder board is Sojourners Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Marriage Policy

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, Sojourners Church will only recognize marriages between a biological-from-birth man and a biological-from-birth woman.¹ Further, the elders and staff of Sojourners shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one biological-from-birth man and one biological-from-birth woman. The facilities and property of Sojourners Church shall only host weddings between one biological-from-birth man and one biological-from-birth woman.

Marriage is a God-created and God-ordained institution (Gen.1-2) which is distinct from the State institution of licensed marriage.

¹ By biological we mean chromosomal differentiation between XX and XY as the foundation marker of gender

Therefore, Sojourners Church and its elders will refrain from participating in State licensing of marriages because marriage is and always will be what God has ordained it to be apart from the shifting understanding of the State.

Therefore, Sojourners Church will perform and record weddings of those that meet the above qualifications and will require them to obtain state licensing apart from the authority of the church.

This requirement is for State licensing is for the good order of the State, legal protection of the couple, and the safety of children.

In all of this, we retain the right and privilege to declare what is true about marriage while supporting good order in the State.