



THE **FOURSQUARE** CHURCH

Foursquare's Statements on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

Contextual Statement:

This document seeks to clarify Foursquare's fundamental understanding of terminology central to current conversations regarding gender, sexuality and marriage. These statements are based on our attempt to carefully and faithfully read the Scriptures and the premise that humanity is created by God and designed to reflect His glory and His goodness in our desires and behaviors. While each of us bears God's image, the introduction of sin has resulted in disordered desires and behaviors in each of us. These show up acutely in our human sexuality. We would be remiss to not situate this conversation within the arc of the salvation narrative: that God has provided rescue in Jesus for every wayward desire and proclivity within us. By placing faith in Him we are re-born—the power of His Spirit transforming us into His likeness.

The Foursquare Church believes the Bible instructs that:

First Statement: Marriage

Marriage—God designed marriage to be a life-long covenant¹ between a male and a female that reflects the union between Christ and the Church (Matt. 19:3-8; Eph. 5:21-33).

Second Statement: Gender

God created humans in His image as male and female, with biological gender at birth signifying the distinction between the two. We find no biblical basis for separating gender identity, sexual identity, and anatomy (Gen. 1:26-28, 2:4-25; Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6).

Third Statement: Biblical Sexual Ethics

Followers of Jesus are to live in Christlike righteousness, including pursuing sexual wholeness that is biblically good, godly, pure, and joyful² while fleeing the seductive lies and false promises of sexual immorality (Prov 5:1-14). Sexual immorality includes acts of adultery, fornication,³ homosexuality,⁴ bestiality, pedophilia, pornography, pansexuality, etc. (1 Cor. 6:9-20).

¹ Many denominational doctrinal statements, as well as biblical scholars, define marriage as a "covenant." This definition is typically based on the isolated instances of the Hebrew term for "covenant" found in Malachi 2:14 and, less clearly, in Proverbs 2:17. Still, no biblical writer argues that marriage is a covenant, nor do they use the covenant relationship between God and His people as an example for marriage. Further, the predominant covenant relationship within Scripture is hierarchical, involving a superior and an inferior (i.e., suzerain-vassal covenant), wherein the latter submits to and obeys the former, as reflected in the relationship between God and His people. That said, the biblical notion of "covenant" also conveys a legal and sacred relationship that includes fidelity, loyalty, lifelong commitment, love, care, etc. We have chosen to use the term "covenant" to convey these characteristics, but at the same time, we exclude any hierarchical dimension between a husband and wife, nor do we endorse male superiority. Rather, a "marriage covenant" affirms that the vows and commitment made before God are sacred and binding for a lifetime between two equals.

² Within marriage this includes godly sexual intimacy; for those who are unmarried this includes abstinence/celebrity.

³ Sexual intercourse outside of marriage.

⁴ Homosexuality is any sexual behavior or inappropriate emotional attachment involving those of the same sex (Rom. 1:26-27; Lev. 18:22; Jude 1:7; 1 Tim. 1:10).

* Updated 09/11/2025