

Statement Regarding Marriage and Sexuality

Approved by Church Action 8/30/15

Our statement of faith, the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, expresses our fundamental Biblical conviction that Christian marriage is defined as ‘the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime’ (Section 18 of Baptist Faith and Message 2000).

We believe that Scripture teaches that sexual intimacy should only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other and that a man and woman should not engage in intimate sexual activity outside of marriage. We believe that Scripture also teaches that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, incest, any attempt to change one’s gender, disagreement with one’s biological sex, or pornography is sinful and offensive to God.

However, we believe that Scripture requires that every person should be shown compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

As a local church, we believe that wedding ceremonies on church property are spiritual acts of worship of the God who created this divine institution. As such, with the approval of the senior pastor, weddings on church property shall be officiated by one or more ordained ministers of the Gospel who shall agree to comply with this statement on marriage and sexuality. The church may decline to make its facilities or ministers available for any wedding if it is determined that one or both of the parties are not biblically and/or legally qualified to marry. The senior pastor or a member of the pastoral ministry shall make such determinations.

Consistent with this policy, no minister or employee of Westwood Baptist Church shall officiate at any same sex union based upon the biblical definition of marriage as a union of one man and one woman, nor shall any ceremony or event (civil or religious) take place on church property that is not in agreement with this statement on marriage and sexuality.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

