

## **GCC Marriage & Sexuality Statement of Belief**

Geist Community Church believes God creates each person as either an engendered biological male or engendered biological female. These two distinct genders reflect the image of God, along with his wise and creative handiwork. Thus, those who seek to reject their biological gender are rejecting God's wise and sovereign rule; they are rebellion against God's wisdom and perfect plan, and this is sin.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a life-long monogamous covenant, as outlined in the Bible (Genesis 2:18–25; Matthew 19:4–6). God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2–5). Therefore, sexual activity outside of marriage is sin. Any form of sexual immorality (adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, incest, bestiality, pornography, sexual self-gratification, etc.) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18–20, 1 Corinthians 6:9–10).

Geist Community Church, as a local body of believers, is commanded to provide a Biblical role model to members, to regular attenders, and to the community. Therefore, all persons who are members, regular attenders, employees, volunteers for any matter or ministry, and anyone using church property must agree to uphold this Marriage/Sexuality Statement of Belief (Philippians 2:14–16, 1 Thessalonians 5:22). God offers redemption and restoration to all who repent of their sin and seek forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19–21, Romans 10:9–10, 1 Corinthians 6:9–11). Every person must be shown compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. Hateful behavior directed toward any person is to be rejected as contrary to our Biblical mandate to love others. However, our command to remain pure and to love others mandates that we separate from sexual behavior condemned in the Bible, and that we recognize as sinful the practices that the Bible recognizes as sinful.

[Approved by the Elders of Geist Community Church: 3 October, 2015]