

SRS Statement on Abortion

NOTE: This is a draft, and is based off the OPC statement which you can read [here](#). Reason #4 was added by David Shormann.

We believe unborn children are living creatures in the image of God, given by God as a blessing to their parents, we therefore affirm that voluntary abortion is in violation of the Sixth Commandment (Exodus 20:13). We state the following reasons:

1. The Bible treats human personhood as beginning at conception (Psalm 139:13-16; 51:5; Jeremiah 1:4,5; Luke 1:14-44; 1:29-38; Exodus 21:22-25).
2. The Bible considers the human person to be a complete person (Genesis 2:7; Numbers 23:10; Deuteronomy 6:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:23). This unity is severed only by death and then only temporarily until the natural, intended union is restored at the resurrection (2 Corinthians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).
3. The Bible forbids murder because man is created in the image of God (Genesis 9:5, 6). The Bible further says that succeeding generations of men are conceived in the image of God (Genesis 5:1-3).
4. The Bible directs us to conduct scientific research (Genesis 1:26-28), and science affirms that life begins at conception (see reason 1).

The body of Christ must strive to show compassion toward unwed mothers and mothers of unwanted children. To this end, not only sympathetic counsel, but also concrete help should be extended (1 John 3:16-18; James 2:14-17).

SRS Position on Homosexuality

1. God's law condemns all of our sexual sins

The Bible is clear in addressing sins of sexual nature. While few people are tempted by homosexual desires, most of us are tempted by adultery and fornication. However, in Scripture, homosexuality is singled out as an abomination and it is also an important social issue of our time. Christ calls us to oppose and hate all of our sexual sins (mental, verbal, or physical), and to help others oppose their sexual sins. Removing "the log" from our eye first, enables us to remove "the speck" from our brother's eye. As taught in the Larger Catechism #99:8 "what is commanded to others, we are bound, according to our places and callings, to be helpful to them".

2. The Bible is explicit in its condemnation of homosexuality in places such as:

Leviticus 18:22 ESV

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ESV

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Romans 1:26-28 ESV

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

Leviticus 20:13 ESV

If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

* It is important to see that Leviticus 20 lists sodomy with other crimes worthy of death, such as bestiality, and child sacrifice (similar to abortion).

20 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. ³I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name. ⁴And if the people of the land do at all close their eyes to that man when he gives one of his children to Molech, and do not put him to death, ⁵then I will set my face against that man and against his clan and will cut them off from among their people, him and all who follow him in whoring after Molech.

⁶“If a person turns to mediums and necromancers, whoring after them, I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people. ⁷Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. ⁸Keep my statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you. ⁹For anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother; his blood is upon him.

¹⁰“If a man commits adultery with the wife of ^{his} neighbor, both the adulterer and

*the adulteress shall surely be put to death. ¹¹ If a man lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. ¹² If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed perversion; their blood is upon them. ¹³ **If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.** ¹⁴ If a man takes a woman and her mother also, it is depravity; he and they shall be burned with fire, that there may be no depravity among you. ¹⁵ If a man lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the animal. ¹⁶ If a woman approaches any animal and lies with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.*

3. Homosexuality in scripture is not a complicated nor a debatable issue

There is simply no place in the Bible that gives any support whatsoever to the idea that sodomy is acceptable to God. Scripture is clear that an unrepentant drunkard, adulterer, thief, or homosexual cannot be saved while he is unrepentant.

Matthew 5:17 ESV

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you..."

1 Timothy 1:8-11 ESV

*⁸ Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ the sexually immoral, **men who practice homosexuality**, enslavers,^[b] liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound^[c] doctrine, ¹¹ **in accordance with the gospel** of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.*

4. Civil laws against homosexuality are applications of God's law and Christ's Gospel.

With varying degrees of punishment, depending on the severity of the offence, civil governments should reflect the Lordship of Christ by criminalizing homosexuality. This is one way in which the Gospel of Jesus' Lordship applies God's Law to all nations, instructing them in Jesus' commands. This is also taught in our

Westminster Confession of Faith 19:4, acknowledging that the “general equity” of Moses’ judicial laws should still serve as a guide for civil legislation, and one of the many uses of the civil sword (Rom.13:4).

5. SRS condemns the lawless vigilantism allowed in Russia and other countries in which folks suspected of being homosexual are attacked randomly, thus violating Dt. 13:14, and the due process of law.

All those suspected of criminal activity, such as homosexuality, should be given a fair trial before they are punished accordingly. The Bible condemns vigilante justice and so does SRS. It is appropriate however, wherever homosexuality is illegal, to first attempt to lead the criminal to repentance, and if he will not repent, to be a witness against him to the legal authorities.

6. The Gospel calls all homosexuals and fornicators to repentance and forgiveness

The Bible is explicit that though our sins be as scarlet, they can be as white as snow through the blood of Christ (Isaiah 1, I Peter 3). So even though there should be laws in every country punishing homosexuality, as there were in the USA not long ago and still are in many of the countries of the world, any sinner can be forgiven for any sin except the sin of unbelief.

As Christ did in John 4, Christians should therefore offer forgiveness of sins and living water to all sinners, including homosexuals, calling and leading them in a life of repentance. For Christ died for sins, once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God (I Peter 3:18).

7. SRS takes this Biblical position because Christ calls us to not be ashamed of His words and to be salt to the earth and light to the world

Mark 8:38 ESV

If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Rev. 21:8 ESV

*But the **cowardly**, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.*