

Fellowship Community Church
Elders' Statement on Marriage, Family, and Sexuality
June 2023

1. **We affirm the Biblical and Historical Christian view of MARRIAGE.** Marriage is a life-long institution established by God between one man and one woman as is defined in Scripture.
*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. **Genesis 2:24***
*He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?" (**Matthew 19:4-5**)*
 - We will strengthen marriages through healthy modeling, premarital counseling, seminars, and elective classes.

2. **We affirm SEXUALITY expressed between a man and a woman in the context of marriage.** We believe that God's design is clearly expressed in Scripture.
*Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. **Hebrews 13:4***
 - We affirm that God has created us in the imago Dei (image of God) of male and female. We celebrate the beauty and intention of God in creation and the distinction of genders.
*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:27***
 - Anything that steps beyond these parameters of sexuality (premarital sex, extramarital sex, homosexual behavior, etc.) is considered sinful.
*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. **1 Corinthians 6:9-10***
 - All sin requires a need for God's gracious work of salvation and repentance.
*For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. **2 Corinthians 7:10***

3. **We affirm the FAMILY.** We believe the family is foundational to the Bible and culture.
*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. **Deuteronomy 6:4-9***
 - We will strengthen families through modeling, in curriculum, and in our programming. We will equip parents to raise their children through ways to increase faith in our homes.
 - We desire the Church to be the "family" that includes singles, widows, widowers, grandparents, fostering and adopting families etc., and to love everyone into the family of God through repentance of sin and salvation in Jesus.

4. **We affirm SINGLENESSE.** Although God calls many to marriage, we acknowledge that some are called to singleness as were Jesus and Paul.

To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. 1 Corinthians 7:8

- We will include singles in leadership, our ministries, and in family life.

5. **We recognize that we are to balance CONVICTION, the commitment to God's Truth, and COMPASSION, loving as Jesus loved.**

- Our standard is always Scripture in how we live and function individually and congregationally. *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- We desire to live like Jesus as a "friend of sinners."

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds. Matthew 11:19

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

John 8:3-11