

THE POSITION PAPER ON HOMOSEXUALITY (LGBT MOVEMENT)

AT CHRIST FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

Compiled by the leadership of Christ Fellowship Bible Church

2014

1. The definition of marriage

God created marriage and ordained marriage from the beginning to be a life-long covenant between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:18-24; Ephesians 5:22-33). Since God established the institution of marriage (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:9) and God owns every person in the world since He is the sovereign Lord of creation (Psalm 24:1; Acts 17:24-25), then He — and He alone — can define marriage according to His purposes (Isaiah 46:10). Thus, the Bible does not recognize any marriage other than that of one man with one woman with the God-intended purpose of remaining together for life.

2. The horrible condition of man because of sin

After God created man and woman perfect (Genesis 1:31), Satan tempted them to sin (2 Corinthians 11:3; Revelation 12:9) and when Adam sinned, he plunged the entire human race which would follow after him into a state of sin and spiritual death (Romans 5:12). Thus, in Adam all sinned (Romans 5:12, 182). All humans that are born into this world enter as sinners (Psalm 51:5) and are enemies of God (Romans 5:6, 8, 10) and under His just wrath (Romans 1:18; 3:9). However, God's wrath can be propitiated through one atoning sacrifice that He has provided for sinners, namely, Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5; Mark 10:45; Romans 3:24-25).

3. The sin of homosexuality as defined by God in the Bible

The Bible speaks of the sin of homosexuality in both the Old and New Testaments (Leviticus 20:13; Genesis 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 6:9). The Bible shows that homosexuality includes the committing of the sexual act itself as well as the same-sex attractions while these may not necessarily commit the act itself (1 Corinthians 6:9; Romans 8:12-13; Romans 1:32; cp. Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18-25). All of this is sinful. God clearly shows that homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9; cf. Ephesians 5:5). Those who commit lives of sexual immorality will not go to heaven (Ephesians 5:5; Galatians 5:19-21).

4. The wrath of God that will come upon unrepentant sinners.

God fully deserves to punish all human beings because of their sin (Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4; Proverbs 17:15). Every person is, by nature, a sinner (Ephesians 2:1-3) and has committed innumerable sins against an infinitely holy God (Deuteronomy 32:4) and thus deserve the eternal wrath of God (Psalm 21:8-9). Because God is just, He must punish sin (Deuteronomy 32:4, 41; Psalm 89:14). Because God is fair, He will punish sin (Psalm 89:31-32; Psalm 7:12-16). Because

God is infinitely righteous, He will infinitely and perfectly punish all unrighteousness. All sinners who live in unrepentance will face God's wrath on the day of judgment (Romans 2:5).

5. The position of CFBC regarding homosexuality on various related topics

Having stated above what the Bible says about homosexuality and God's wrath that will certainly come upon all unrepentant sinners — including homosexuals, what follows is the CFBC position regarding various topics and how homosexuality is related.

1) The workplace (hiring gays) — CFBC will not hire homosexuals to be employed as pastors, elders, administrators, staff, janitors, or any other position on the payroll. The reason that CFBC will not do this is because homosexuality is a lifestyle that God has clearly declared to be sinful and a church that hires homosexuals cannot incur God's blessing. Therefore, to honor God, to magnify Christ, to keep His Church pure, CFBC refuses to hire homosexuals.

2) Weddings — CFBC will not perform any wedding ceremonies for same-sex couples. Though currently renting a building, CFBC does not wish for the buildings/facilities/property to be used for any same-sex ceremony linked to CFBC in any way. God defines marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman and thus, a same-sex wedding ceremony would be sinful, dishonoring to God, and bringing reproach upon Jesus Christ and thus CFBC can have no part in a same-sex wedding in any way.

3) Financial support for a ministry/endeavor — CFBC will not offer support to a ministry, a church, or a programmatic endeavor that may be linked to the LGBT, homosexual community. CFBC will not financially support such so-called ministries that have joined with the homosexual community. To support a ministry financially would be tantamount to providing CFBC's blessing and CFBC cannot condone such sinful and unbiblical behavior.

4) Cooperating with organizations/agencies — CFBC will not cooperate in any endeavor with other churches, organizations, mission agencies, or non-profits that have joined together with the homosexual community. Regardless of the organization, or the profit that may come from such an endeavor, or the personnel involved, CFBC will not link up with and join hands in harmony with those affirming and allowing same-sex marriages.

Is this really an issue that deserves a position paper? It most certainly is! It is a hill to die on. In this current era in which we live, we must stand true, firm, and immovable on the written Word of God (1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Peter 5:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:15). Even if churches, organizations, pastors, ministries, and educational institutions cave in and endeavor to compel CFBC to accept same-sex marriage as a legitimate lifestyle, CFBC cannot and will not succumb to this since it is a sinful way of life that leads such unrepentant people into God's eternal wrath because of sin.

So then, the elders of CFBC wholeheartedly affirm the following...

We teach that marriage was given by God as part of His common grace, and that it has no meaning other than as He has provided (Gen. 2:18–24). We teach that marriage is subject to the curse of the Fall but that believers, living in obedience to the Scripture and under the control of the Holy Spirit, can begin to experience peaceful, productive, and fulfilled marriage as intended by God (Gen. 3:16; 1 Peter 3:7).

We teach that the marriages of believers are to illustrate the loving relationship of Christ and His church, with the husband loving his wife as Christ loves the church and the wife responding to her husband's loving leadership as the church responds to Christ (Eph. 5:18–33).

We teach that as believers' marriages are to illustrate Christ's relationship with His church, believers should choose to marry those who share their faith and regenerate life (2 Cor. 6:14).

We teach that the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in scripture (Gen. 2:23–24).

We teach that marriage is always a public, formal, and officially recognized covenant between a man and a woman. We teach that without such a covenant, which may include a "common law marriage," where valid in specific cases under pertinent law, prolonged conjugal cohabitation does not establish, and is not equivalent to, marriage (John 4:18). We teach that where no such covenant exists, or can be discerned, between a cohabiting couple prior to coming to faith in Christ, family units should be preserved to the extent possible and, if otherwise appropriate, solemnization encouraged. We teach that where a valid marriage has been established prior to coming to faith in Christ, the couple should remain married (1 Cor. 7:24).

We teach that God hates divorce, permitting it only where there has been unrepentant sexual sin (Mal. 2:14–16; Matt. 5:32, 19:9) or desertion by an unbeliever (1 Cor. 7:12–15). We teach that remarriage is permitted to a faithful partner, but only when the divorce was on biblical grounds.

We teach that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We teach that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman (Heb. 13:4).

We teach that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, pornography, any attempt to change one's sex or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God (Lev. 18:1–30; Matt. 5:8; Rom. 1:26–29; 1 Cor. 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1–8).

We teach that homosexuality, in particular, is subject to God’s wrath of abandonment, is a matter of choice and not inherited status, and epitomizes man’s ungrateful rebellion against God (Rom. 1:18–28).

We teach that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture or the doctrines of the church. We teach that the faithful proclamation of the Scripture, including the call to repentance, does not constitute hate speech, or hateful and harassing behavior, but is instead a fundamental part of the church’s loving mission to the world (Matt. 28:16–20; 2 Cor. 5:11–20; 1 Tim. 1:5; 2 Tim. 4:1–2).

We teach that God offers redemption and forgiveness to all who confess and forsake their sin, including sexual sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We teach that His forgiveness is total and complete (Ps. 103:11–12, 130:3–4; Is. 43:25, 44:22; John 5:24; Col. 2:13–14) and that God imputes the full righteousness of Christ (2 Cor. 5:21) to the believing sinner. We teach that the forgiven sinner has been cleansed from the guilt of sin, set apart unto God, or made holy, and justified before Him (1 Cor. 6:9–11). We teach that any man or woman who has received that forgiveness is “in Christ” and is a “new creation” (2 Cor. 5:17).