

Statement ^[1]

Redemption Bible Chapel affirms the teaching of Scripture that humanity has been created in the image of God as both male and female. This distinction in gender is both real and inextricably linked to our material bodies, and as such, sexual identity and expression are also to be fixed in relation to God's gift of gender to the individual person.

To deny any part of this teaching is to subvert God's purposeful design of humanity. Despite attempts by many to deny these distinctions and to untether gender from sexuality, the New Testament reaffirms the Old Testament's teaching on this topic and further brings the male-female distinction to its culmination in the recognition of the relationships between Christ and His Church.

Relevant Principles Derived From Scripture

1. God is a God of clarity and order, not disorder and chaos (1 Cor. 14:33).
2. God's character is that of truth, and all His actions and communication are truth-filled and not in contradiction with previously revealed truths (Deut. 32:4; Isa. 45:19).
3. God has created all things, including humanity and how we relate to one another including, but not limited to, sexuality (Gen. 1-2).
4. Humanity has been made in the image of God, and so no part of humanity, immaterial or material, is purposeless or irrelevant to God's creative design (Gen. 1:27).
5. Sexuality is just one part of God's purpose for humanity to live in fellowship with one another and in holiness and fellowship with Him (1 Cor. 6:13).
6. God deeply loves humanity despite its sinfulness and rebellion to His gracious commands and designs (Rom. 5:8).

Comment

We believe that sexuality refers to God's design and pattern for the procreative relationship between male and female, as well as the experience of sexual desire within that design. We further believe that gender refers to biological differences in males and females.

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably created each person as distinctly male or female (Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-25; 5:1, 2). These two distinct and divinely representative genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that the fullest, most rewarding experience of life includes the acceptance of a person's God-given biological gender. The rejection of one's biological gender diminishes the reflection of the image of God within a person.

Further, as humanity is created in the image of God, we recognize that we are composed of body and spirit. This composition is seen in numerous places in Scripture beginning with our creation account (Genesis 2:7). We believe that gender and sexuality are inseparably tied to the biology of humanity. As such, we reject any denigration of humanity's reflection of God's image upon them that carries either the denial or degradation of the importance of the human body. Further, we affirm that all humanity, regardless of race, sex, belief, development, or physical and mental competency is to be understood rightly as a "person."

We believe it is God’s purpose for sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. As a sign, marriage is to be understood as pointing to the reality of Christ’s faithfulness to His Church, and as such sexual fidelity within marriage is not only wise but glorifying to God. Any form of sexual activity outside of marriage between a man and a woman — including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, and pornography — is contrary to God’s design for marriage and harmful to the spiritual health of those involved (1 Cor. 6:15-7:6; Eph. 5:3-7).

We hold the commitments to be both faithful with the truth of God’s Word as well as to live in a way that loves others. As such, we believe that all people must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Regardless of whether or not our values are shared, we will always strive as a church to reflect these qualities. Any behaviour or attitudes not displaying these qualities should be repudiated and corrected as they are not in accord with Scripture or the Spirit of Christ (John 13:35).

We believe that disobedience to God’s design for gender and sexuality is the result of sin. All people are impacted by sin. The impact of sin is both personal and cultural. The solution, then, to human disobedience to God’s design for gender and sexuality is the gospel. As a church, we hold that the Bible reveals the God who forgives and who reconciles all to Himself by faith in the atoning work of Christ in His life, death, and resurrection. At the very core of the problem of all humanity is its failure to love this God fully and completely obey His commandments. This failure and rebellion has seeded itself in every human heart from the beginning of creation and has led not only to the distortion and denigration of God’s created order but also to the attempt to dethrone God from His role as ruler over all. The only remedy for this and every sin is the grace and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for the sins of the world.

Additional Reading

Burk, Denny. *What Is the Meaning of Sex?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.

Köstenberger, Andreas J., and David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2nd ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.

Wilson, Todd A. *Mere Sexuality: Rediscovering the Christian Vision of Sexuality*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017.

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The primary sources used in crafting this were Claire Smith, “Humanity as Male and Female,” The Gospel Coalition, accessed November 8, 2021, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/humanity-male-female/>
Andrew T. Walker, “Gender and Sexuality,” The Gospel Coalition, accessed November 8, 2021, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/gender-and-sexuality/>

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