

# **FAITH CHURCH STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE**

## **The Faith Church Statement on Marriage\* A Declaration of Christian Conscience and Conviction**

### **Definition**

As the creator and author of marriage, God alone has the authority to define it. This He did in the second chapter of Genesis where God, having created both groom and bride, brought them together personally (2:22) and a benediction was pronounced over the couple; Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife and they shall become one flesh (2:24, ESV; see also Mt. 19:4-5). For this reason, Christian believers do now hold and have always held that marriage is between one man and one woman; that it is sealed by the exchange of covenant vows; and that it is intended for the whole of natural life, until death.

### **On the Interpretation of Scripture**

We Christian believers regard the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired and infallible authority under which we live. We regard the clarity of Scripture to be sufficient for us to interpret the Bible accurately on matters of both faith and practice, using straight forward grammatical and historical principles. For this reason, we reject all attempts to obscure or reread Biblical passages which abundantly state the parameters of human sexuality. Sexual relations are to be enjoyed as a gift, and exclusively, between a married man and his own wife alone (Exodus 20:14; Hebrews 13:4). Any alternate readings of Scripture that intentionally or unintentionally obscure this foundational Biblical presupposition are to be rejected.

### **On Sin and Grace**

While it is true that Christians are called to hate transgression and iniquity, we find the sin within our own hearts and not the sin of our neighbors to be the most egregious of all. We lament and repent of our own sin first; be it in thought, word, or deed. We welcome those of all races, genders, ethnicities, and sexual inclinations to repent and believe in Jesus Christ and to worship in our churches. We sympathize with all who struggle in temptation, and exhort them to pursue the obedience of faith and embrace the new life given to the Redeemed by the Holy Spirit. Accordingly, we continue to reject any and every sin that degrades Gods glorious creation of marriage, including: adultery, fornication, rape, incest, homosexuality, polygamy, lust, pornography, coercive abstinence while in the state of marriage, and all forms of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. Christians are called to love and not hate our enemies and those who persecute us (Matt 5:44). Thus, we utterly disregard any attempt to mischaracterize our convictions on the above matters as hate speech, for to tell the truth on these matters is indeed a most loving and gracious act.

### **On Human Laws and Ordinances**

Moreover, mankind can pass no law that redefines marriage any more than mortals can pass a law that declares the light of the sun to be dark, or the gravity of the earth to be ceased. Though various laws may be passed by the agency of human pen and ink; or judgments rendered from human courts (higher or lower); yet human beings have not the prerogative, now or ever, to alter, change, or redefine marriage.

## **On Civil Disobedience**

Finally, then, we the undersigned stand firm in our convictions on these matters and refuse to take any such actions as would compel us to violate either Scripture or conscience—even if so compelled by civil law. Amen.

\*The bulk of this document was produced by Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Brooksville, FL. It was amended and adopted by the Session of Faith Presbyterian Church (EPC), Pembroke Pines, FL, on May 15, 2013.