

OUR BELIEF AND HEART ABOUT DIFFERENT MATTERS OF SEXUALITY

It is extremely important that, as we read this statement, we remind ourselves that we live in a broken world and that there are many areas in which humanity falls short. In this statement, we will address just a few of them.

Ultimately, what Jesus shows us is that our desires are to have connection and relationship. We try to answer this through our broken sexuality, yet this will never satisfy. The Bible raises marriage, singleness, friendship, and also the Church as good examples to start answering our desires for connection and relationship. Sexual fulfillment is not the end goal, it is only one expression of intimacy. We will be left empty if we try to satisfy our desire for connection and relationship with our sexuality alone.

Here is what we believe as a mission regarding some specific areas:

- All people are created in the image of God, regardless of their relationship status, belief, sexual orientation, gender identity, skin color, economic status, or physical abilities.
- The body is important for moral behavior. We believe that what we do with our bodies is not morally neutral. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and are therefore integrally linked with our spirit.
- God's original design is for sexual relationships to be between a biological male and a biological female, within marriage. The Bible also affirms being single/celebrate as a legitimate and God-honoring way of life.
- Same-sex attraction is not a sin. We believe, however, that acting on a same-sex attraction (in thought or action) is not biblical. We believe that someone who is consistently experiencing a same-sex attraction can still live a fulfilled and God-honoring life.
- Pornography damages relationships and leaves its victims vulnerable to poor self-esteem, shame, anxiety, and depression, and it goes against God's original design for sexual intimacy to be within a marriage. Pornography also creates unrealistic expectations and misinformation about sexual intimacy, conditioning us to see people as objects to be used and abused.
- Our biological sex matters. The Bible highlights the importance of our sexed bodies in our human identity. If our biological sex is physically unambiguous, then our bodies should determine who we are - male or female.
- We believe our gender is defined by our biological sex. They are both intertwined and together form part of what it means to be human; to be created in the image of God.

- We do not believe that sex is “assigned” at birth, but rather that a person’s biological sex is a gift from God, determined by Him in the womb. For the small percentage of the population who are intersex, we believe that this is part of our fallen world and, while it is not part of God’s original design (as with other physical anomalies present at birth), we believe intersex people have just as much potential to live a fulfilled and God-honoring life.
- We acknowledge that some people experience a disconnect between the gender they feel and their biological sex (gender dysphoria). This is deeply painful, and we have great compassion and concern for them. It is a real thing, from which people truly suffer. They are not faking it, and we should take their life stories and experiences seriously, seeking to understand.
- Our heart breaks for people who feel that the only solution for their deep pain is to have sex reassignment surgery or to take cross-sex hormones. We believe that people who go through these procedures or take these medications do not become the opposite sex, as it is not possible to change their genetic makeup. They do, however, change their physical bodies to appear more masculine, feminine, or androgenous. We do believe that, even after changing their physical bodies, they can still make a decision to follow Jesus and walk in a discipleship journey to be more like Him.
- We also acknowledge that suicide is a serious risk. Unaddressed mental health issues are the number one cause of suicidality, and we are very concerned about the high rates of suicide among LGBTQ+ people. There are many reasons why people consider suicide and we do not want to simplify a very complex issue. We would, however, like to be Jesus’ hands and feet to people who are in this much pain. God, help us to do this in a way that brings people closer to you.
- We have concerns around the narrowing of stereotypical gender roles that has happened over the last few decades, which has created rigid boxes that define masculine and feminine behaviour and appearance. We believe the Bible says men should act like men and women act like women - however, this may look different depending on the cultural context. Our conclusion is that we need to be more concerned with becoming more like Jesus - and less concerned about conforming to cultural expectations.

Finally, we want to acknowledge the struggle, stress, and pain that accompany living with same-sex attraction, gender dysphoria, an addiction to pornography, and challenges with keeping sexual activity to within marriage. We don’t want to be naive about the suffering the Christian community has inflicted on people facing these struggles. We do believe this is a discipleship matter; discipleship is helping us to become more like Jesus, growing more into our identity in Him, and understanding what the Bible says about how we should live and be - which we believe includes our sexuality.



REACHING AND DISCIPLING
THE GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE FOR JESUS

In the end, we are all sinners and the only hope for any of us is in professing faith in Jesus, by the undeserved grace made possible through His death and resurrection.

Steiger International Leadership Team
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