

Statement on Human Sexuality

Prairie Bible Institute / Prairie College

October 28, 2016

1. Biblical Authority

We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, the only supreme authority for all matters of faith and conduct. Therefore, we affirm the only authoritative and trustworthy norm for moral judgments on human sexuality is what God has revealed in His Word.

2. The Context of Sexuality

We believe that, according to the Genesis narratives, every person is created as male or female in the image of God to worship and obey God, to build community, and to care for creation. Just as God is essentially relational (a community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit who are each for the other), so persons are essentially relational beings, formed through relationship with God and with others. Our sexuality (as biologically male or female) is an indicator of the deeper, more fundamental desire of our hearts for relational bonds: we are incomplete without the other.

3. Sexuality, Friendship and Marriage

According to the Bible, two kinds of relational bonds are primary: friendship bonds and the marriage bond. Jesus indicated that spiritual friendships in the community of his followers are above all other human ties. Such friendships are not closed but open, expressive of the inclusiveness of God's love for all people. In contrast to friendships, the marriage covenant between a man and a woman is expressive of the exclusive nature of the covenant between God and his people.

4. Sexual Union

We believe that sexual intercourse between husband and wife is a symbol that celebrates an exclusive covenantal bond between them, and thus it is reserved for marriage. Acts of sexual intimacy between persons of the same sex, or persons of the opposite sex outside of marriage, even when consensual, violate God's design for marriage. This design includes not only fidelity between a man and a woman, but is also the model for procreation and the nurture of children.

5. Our Common Brokenness

According to the Bible we live in a broken world, a world that falls short of God's intention for creation. In spite of our own best efforts, we are disoriented toward God, lack wholeness within, and are in need of relational healing. Only through surrender to God's call to new life through trust in Jesus Christ are we set on the path to wholeness, a journey of faith, hope, and love. Prairie College is a community of people committed to helping each other on this journey.

6. **Sexual Purity**

We affirm that whatever one's personal tendencies and desires, all members of the Prairie College community are expected to avoid sexual intimacy outside of marriage and refrain from encouraging the same in others. Our community strives for purity in thought and in relationships, respectful modesty, personal responsibility for actions taken, and avoidance of contexts known to be personally compromising. As well, we refrain from sexually exploitive behavior, sexual harassment, same-sex dating behaviors and pornographic material.

7. **Gender**

We believe that all of us are broken in our gender identity (our sense of being male or female) to a greater or lesser extent. We believe that a person's path toward wholeness is in line with his or her birth sex. We affirm that God's grace can bring substantial healing for gender dysphoria of all kinds, including distorted cultural versions of manhood and womanhood.

8. **A Community of Care and Respect**

We joyfully affirm that God encounters, embraces, forgives, and brings healing to all people who respond to His grace. We walk alongside each other in seeking to overcome sexual sin. For those who are attracted to persons of the same or opposite sex and struggle to maintain sexual purity, we aspire to be a gracious community that extends compassion and care, providing accountability and assistance as we support all members of our community in their desire to live a chaste life. We are committed to engaging difficult conversations with openness and honesty, humility and love, prayerfulness and care, and all members are expected to treat one another with respect and Christ-like compassion. We will demonstrate civility and compassion as we engage in dialogue with others on these issues, not engaging in or tolerating hateful, bigoted, or destructive interactions.