

### CBS STATEMENT ON HOLY HUMAN SEXUALITY

The College of Biblical Studies passionately teaches about and believes in the holy, righteous, loving, and forgiving triune God, who is responsible for giving all good gifts to His children (James 1:17). As a community of faith that trains men and women for the Christian service, we desire to pursue His holy purposes and model His forgiving, redeeming, love to all with whom we come in contact (John 13:34 and 15:12). In His grace, God has revealed His sovereign purposes in His written word and in the living Word of the person of Jesus Christ, Who is completely pure and without sin as the perfect High Priest and sacrifice for our sins (John 1:1-18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 2:21-23; Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-15, 9:11-12). While on this earth, we will never live lives of complete sinless perfection as Jesus did or know all that the triune God knows; nevertheless, we desire to emulate the standards of holiness and love that God has established for us.

Consistent with our mission of providing biblically based education, the College of Biblical Studies embraces the Bible as the authoritative source of all beliefs about human sexuality (John 17:17; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible portrays human sexuality as a gift given by God to the first married couple, originally biologically created as male and female, to unite them for the purposes of pleasure and procreation to the glory of God (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:24; Matthew 19:5). God is the author of sex, and in holy heterosexual matrimony, He encourages a husband and wife to enjoy his or her spouse in love (Proverbs 5:18-19; Song of Songs 4:10, 5:16, 7:8-9). Married couples are encouraged not to consider their bodies as their own but to put the legitimate sexual needs of their spouse first, and to meet the spouse's needs whenever possible (1 Corinthians 7:3-5). All board members, administrators, faculty, staff members, students, applicants, and all volunteers must agree to, adhere to in attitudes, actions and beliefs these principles as well as the below-outlined actions and other related acts that are prohibited in Scripture, both explicitly and in principle (Romans 12:1-2).

The holy purpose of God from the very beginning was for sex and marriage to be monogamous between one man and one woman, as originally biologically created by God, united in holy matrimony for life (Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:31-32). This design was marred by sin which twisted God's purpose and began to promote sex for pleasure without the unique monogamous covenantal marriage commitment that the Bible requires (Romans 1:24-25; 1 Thessalonians 4:5). While God allowed polygamy to occur in the lives of Abraham, David, Solomon, and others (Genesis 2:24; Deuteronomy 17:17), He never specifically endorsed such an activity; in fact, the Bible does explicitly state that Christians, especially those in church leadership, should maintain the monogamous commitment to one spouse for life (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). Similarly, while God permitted divorce and remarriage under certain specific situations (Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Matthew 19:7-9), His original design was for one husband and one wife to be united for life (Matthew 19:4-6).

Some sexual actions are always prohibited in the Bible including, but not limited to, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, transgender identification, bestiality/zooophilia, prostitution, rape, and sinful lust in all forms. For instance, sex outside of marriage is always prohibited, especially for the Christian whose body has been bought by the price of Christ's blood and is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:13-20; Hebrews 13:4). Furthermore, the Bible discourages Christians from associating with believers who are involved in unrepentant sexual immorality (Psalm 50:16-23; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11, 15:33).

Fornication, or sexual relations before the marriage covenant (including cohabitation), is always prohibited in the Bible (Matthew 5:19-20; Romans 1:29; 1 Corinthians 7:2, 10:8; Galatians 5:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Revelation 2:20). In fact, the Bible never endorses sexual behavior outside of the marital relationship. Similarly, adultery, that is, a married person having sexual relations with someone who is not his or her spouse, is always prohibited (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 5:18; Proverbs 2:16-19, 6:32; Malachi 3:5; Mark 7:21; Galatians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 6:9; James 2:11). In fact, God specifically says that His desire to keep marriage undefiled is a reason why He consistently judges adultery and fornication (Ephesians 5:3-6; Colossians 3:5-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6; Hebrews 13:4). Additionally, the Bible specifically prohibits all forms of non-heterosexual monogamous marital expression, including but not limited to, homosexuality and bisexuality (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13-16; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Jude 7-8), as such acts are contrary to God's original design of sex and marriage between one man and one woman (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:24; Mat. 19:5) for God's purpose for procreation (Gen. 1:27-28; 9:1, 7; Leviticus 26:9; Psalm 127:3-5; Malachi 2:15 and 1 Timothy 5:14). Despite the fact that homosexuality occurred and was endorsed by many during the time when the Bible was written, the Bible never endorses homosexual relationships and/or homosexual marriage.

Similarly, the Bible encourages Christians to understand their sexual orientation and sexual identity in the original design of God as biologically created at birth: male and female with distinct differences but equal value in God's eyes (Genesis 1:27, 5:2; 1 Peter 3:7). In fact, a Christian should find his or her primary identity in Christ as a child of God (John 1:12; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-3, 1 John 3:1-2). As a result, the Bible forbids individuals from adopting a gender identity that conflicts with the biological sex they received from birth and to affirm others who accept the sex they were biologically assigned at birth (Deuteronomy 22:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9, where use of μα?α??? means "effeminate" or indicating a rejection of one's God-given, biological sex). The Bible teaches that exchanging the natural functions of the God-given sex for unnatural functions (including same-sex attraction or desiring to convert to another gender) is a result of sin (Romans 1:26-27). The Bible recognizes only two sexes — male and female — and a trust in the sovereignty of God will lead Christians to display and adopt only the sex God biologically gave them at birth (Genesis 5:2; Matthew 19:4). To do otherwise through sex reassignment, transvestite, transgender, gender-fluid, or nonbinary "genderqueer" and related acts or conduct is to question God's providence and sovereignty.

Furthermore, the Bible expressly forbids bestiality/zooophilia, prostitution, incest, rape, and lust in all forms (Exodus 22:19; Leviticus 18:6-18, 23; 20:15-16, 21:14; Deuteronomy 22:25-27, 23:17-18, 27:20-23; 2 Samuel 13:12-14; Matthew 5:27-28; 1 Corinthians 6:15-18; Ephesians 4:17-19; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:22). Such actions reject God's original design for sex, do not represent the selfless relationship of Christ and the church, malign the worth of the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, and cause extensive harm to others.

In addition to the above, there are some items that the Bible does not directly address but provides principles that guide Christian conduct. For instance, pornography, polyamorous marriage, pedophilia, sexting, voyeurism, and sex trafficking all are forbidden based on the prohibitions against lust and care for other individuals provided in the Bible (Amos 1:6; Matthew 5:27-28; 1 Corinthians 6:15-18; Ephesians 4:17-19; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:22). Additionally exhibitionism, identification as an animal, self-marriage/sologamy, objectophilia, self-masturbation and all other selfish sexual acts are against God's purpose of creating humans in His image and sex for the union of husband and wife in marriage.

The Bible states that individuals who struggle with same-sex attraction, who have practiced sexual acts condemned explicitly or implicitly by the Bible, or who have sinfully lusted in their hearts can receive God's abundant grace through faith in the substitutionary work of Jesus Christ on the cross in their place as payment for their sins (Ephesians 2:1-10). The Bible encourages anyone involved in such acts or thoughts and attractions to repent of such actions as well as thoughts, and confess these actions and thoughts as sin (2 Corinthians 12:21; 1 John 1:9; Revelation 2:21). Believers should pursue a righteous view of sex and accompanying actions by faith in the redeeming work of Jesus Christ as well as the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13; Galatians 5:16-18; Ephesians 4:20-24; Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16). While some may be more likely to struggle with certain sins, the Bible gives examples that these sins can be overcome by the power of the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ (Matthew 21:31-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Because a person can escape a lifestyle of sexual immorality, CBS encourages its board, faculty, staff, and students to demonstrate the love of Christ to all individuals, regardless of the sexual sins with which they may struggle (Matthew 9:10-13; John 8:3-11; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; Colossians 4:5-6). As Christians, we should afford them the love and respect they deserve as people created in the image of God.

The Scriptures command Christians to be compassionate and sensitive to those who are experiencing the temptation towards same-sex attraction, the desire to abandon their God-given gender at birth, the struggle with what the Bible says about sex, and the confession of previously-committed immoral acts. Special consideration should be given to those who express a willingness to change by faith in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit and conform to these standards expressed in belief and act to the "CBS Statement on Biblical, Holy, Human Sexuality" (2 Corinthians 7:8-10; James 5:20; 1 Peter 4:8). The Bible commands Christians to be reconciled with a repentant brother in a spirit of humility and gentleness (Galatians 6:1-2).

CBS believes that God gives two life-enhancing options for human sexual behavior according to the Bible: (1) a regular, active, biblical conjugal "one flesh" marital sexual union of one man and one woman to help overcome the temptations of the evil one (1 Corinthians 7:3-5), and (2) celibacy (Isaiah 56:3-5; Matthew 19:10-12; 1 Corinthians 7:7, 26-28). Those who cannot control their sexual urges are encouraged to pursue biblical marriage unless they are prevented biblically and/or situationally by God from doing so (1 Corinthians 7:2, 9). Both celibacy and marriage are gifts from God by His will, with their own unique blessings and challenges, and should be received with great joy and faith. Celibacy and faithful singleness as well as godly monogamous marriage are to be celebrated and affirmed within the College.