

STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE

Worthington Christian School holds, and will continue to hold, to the historic Christian position on sexuality and marriage; that is, that God has created male and female as distinct genders which both reflect the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and that marriage is to be defined only as a life-long union between a male and a female. Scripture further declares that sexual activity is meant to be limited to the marriage relationship. Scripture condemns any sexual activity - heterosexual or homosexual, extra-marital or pre-marital – that is not within the bounds of biblical marriage between a man and a woman. As with any biblical command, the Worthington Christian community – its faculty, staff, students and parents of students – are expected to abide by it. We believe that scripture teaches that engaging in acts that are outside the biblical definition of marriage and sexual conduct is harmful to the individuals involved and to the larger school community.

At the same time, we recognize that we live in a world shattered by sin and that profoundly affects all aspects of our humanity, including our sexuality. It is a matter only of God's grace that we are able to fulfill God's created purpose for marriage and sexuality. And yet nearly all of us still struggle with vestiges of sexual brokenness, including lust, promiscuity, and sexual identity, whether these be heterosexual or homosexual. Therefore, we affirm:

- That our identity must be found in our nature as image bearers of God and as ones redeemed by Christ and not in our gender, sexual attractions, ethnicity, socio-economic status or other cultural markers.
- That there are biblical prohibitions on sexual activity outside biblically defined marriage, but not necessarily on inclinations or attractions.
- That a Christian can be faithful to God's commands to abstain from illegitimate sexual activity while simultaneously experiencing same sex attractions.
- That ultimately we are called to submit our inclinations and attractions to the power of the Holy Spirit and to scripture.
- That we will love, counsel, and equip those in our community – students, parents, and staff – who experience same sex attraction as they work out an understanding of God's call on their lives.
- That we will lovingly rebuke and discipline those who engage in sexual activity outside of biblical marriage.
- Gender is a divine order that is rooted in the nature and character of God. That order is fixed and unchanging in a way that reflects that character. (cf. Genesis 1:26-27)

- Our biology and our sexual makeup matter. They are not secondary to our spiritual makeup and comprise a vital component of a fundamental doctrine of Christian theology – the resurrection of the body. To deny this would be a radical dualist or even gnostic position. The God-ordained sex and gender that He gave to each of us should be recognized as a gift. (cf. Genesis 1:31)
- Our gender roles and how we perceive them have been subjected to the effects of the fall and our own sinful natures. (Also see our Statement on Human Sexuality and Marriage.) Our identity in such matters must be rooted in truth and not our own changing and untrustworthy feelings. (cf. Romans 1:21-27)

We expect marriage and sexuality to remain a significant issue as the Christian community seeks to relate to a rapidly changing culture. Worthington Christian School is resolutely committed to being “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14) in its approach to marriage and sexuality.