



## **Statement on Human Sexuality** Affirmations and Denials<sup>1</sup>

The following statements are a series of affirmations and denials with respect to human sexuality that represents the foundational biblical truths that are embraced, taught, and lived out by Trinity College of Florida. Our understanding of sexuality is grounded in the inerrant Word of God, which is the absolute and final authority for us as Christians for all of life and practice. They are presented in a series of Articles with relevant topics and accompanying Scripture references.

### **Article 1: God's Good Design**

We affirm that God created humankind in his image as either male or female with equal personhood and worth, and that he commissioned them to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth, and to rule and subdue it together. We also affirm that differences between men and women are part of God's design and plan and are complementary in nature. These unique differences between men and women were pronounced as "very good." (Genesis 1:26–28, 31).

We deny that male and female are indistinct from or interchangeable with one another, or that the differences are inconsequential (Genesis 1:26–27, 2:21–24; Matthew 19:4–5).

### **Article 2: Sexual Difference**

We affirm that when God created human beings, he established a male-female binary that is normatively displayed at the chromosomal level of human biology (Genesis 1:27, 2:18–25; Matthew 19:4; 1 Corinthians 11:8–12).

We deny that any so-called "gender identity" that contradicts the biological markers of male and female assigned by God can be legitimately chosen or changed based on personal preference, subjective feeling, or societal norm (Psalm 139:13–15). We also deny that any human condition resulting from the Fall removes or cancels the structural image of God in any individual or puts anyone beyond God's call to salvation and saving grace.

### **Article 3: The Fall**

We affirm that because of the Fall in Genesis, sin has marred the sexual experience of humankind, resulting in various disorders (such as intersex conditions and gender dysphoria),

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<sup>1</sup> These statements were formulated and come as a slight revision to the human sexuality statement formulated and adopted by Bethlehem Baptist church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. See <https://bethlehem.church/manhood-womanhood-affirmations-and-denials/>

which display the brokenness of creation (Genesis 3, Romans 8:20–23). We affirm that the Fall distorted the sexual desires of humanity, and that all expressions of homosexual behavior, either by act or desire, is expressly designated as sin in Scripture and contrary to God’s design (1 Corinthians 6:9–10, Romans 1:26–27, Romans 13:14, Galatians 5:16–17, Ephesians 2:3, 1 John 2:16).

We deny that the presence of various disorders is evidence that God intended other modes of existence outside the male-female binary and that such disorders or dysphoria ever legitimize behaviors contrary to this divine intention (Genesis 1:26–28, Matthew 19:4–5).

#### **Article 4: Masculinity and Femininity**

We affirm that men ought to display uniquely masculine ways of being and that women ought to display uniquely feminine ways of being in every sphere of life, which are fitting to God’s good design in creation, even if the expressions of masculinity and femininity may vary in limited ways from culture to culture (1 Corinthians 11:13–16, 16:13; 1 Timothy 2:8–13; 1 Peter 3:3).

We deny that these masculine and feminine ways of being can be reduced to mere social constructs, while also denying that they should include unhelpful cultural stereotypes that are not in step with the Bible.

#### **Article 5: Definition and Purpose of Marriage**

We affirm that God created and intended marriage to be the loving, lifelong union of a man and a woman, and that marriage is the only proper context for sexual intimacy. We affirm that there are many purposes to marriage such as procreation as well as expressions of covenant love, relational and emotional intimacy, along with physical pleasure. We further assert that a husband and wife may still glorify God even without children (Genesis 1:28, 2:24; Song of Solomon 2:7; Matthew 19:4–6; Luke 20:34–36).

We deny that any union between two men, two women, more than two people, or any other unbiblical arrangement constitutes a legitimate marriage.

\* Approved by the Presidential Cabinet and the Board of Trustees – January 19, 2022