

MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM

Genesis 1:26-27

INTRODUCTION

In recent years the Canadian government has declared homosexuality and transgenderism, among various perversions, to be right and good, and has taken particular aim at Christians who stand for biblical truth. This past December a law was passed in Canada, which took affect on January 7th, that gave homosexuality and other perversions complete government approval, while the government also declared its willingness to use its power to silence and extinguish any opposing voices, going so far as to criminalize all who dare to preach against homosexuality or even pray for the deliverance of those trapped in that sin, even if those people want those prayers.

Today pastors across Canada are preaching what the Bible says about holy sexuality, and about the sins of homosexuality and transgenderism. Pastors all over the United States are joining our Canadian brothers, not only to show support for them, but in order to draw a clear line in our own nation.

In 2017 the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood published a statement developed in Nashville, Tennessee, which is now known as the Nashville Statement. That statement is a clear expression of biblical truth regarding sexuality. Over 24,000 men and women have signed the Nashville Statement; I am one of them.

TRANSITION: This morning we are going to take a look at what the Bible has to say about God's creation of mankind. I want to begin by reading the Nashville Statement which I and tens of thousands of others have signed.

Article 1

WE AFFIRM that God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife, and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and his bride the church.

WE DENY that God has designed marriage to be a homosexual, polygamous, or polyamorous relationship. We also deny that marriage is a mere human contract rather than a covenant made before God.

Article 2

WE AFFIRM that God's revealed will for all people is chastity outside of

marriage and fidelity within marriage.

WE DENY that any affections, desires, or commitments ever justify sexual intercourse before or outside marriage; nor do they justify any form of sexual immorality.

Article 3

WE AFFIRM that God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in his own image, equal before God as persons, and distinct as male and female.

WE DENY that the divinely ordained differences between male and female render them unequal in dignity or worth.

Article 4

WE AFFIRM that divinely ordained differences between male and female reflect God's original creation design and are meant for human good and human flourishing.

WE DENY that such differences are a result of the Fall or are a tragedy to be overcome.

Article 5

WE AFFIRM that the differences between male and female reproductive structures are integral to God's design for self-conception as male or female.

WE DENY that physical anomalies or psychological conditions nullify the God-appointed link between biological sex and self-conception as male or female.

Article 6

WE AFFIRM that those born with a physical disorder of sex development are created in the image of God and have dignity and worth equal to all other image-bearers. They are acknowledged by our Lord Jesus in his words about "eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb." With all others they are welcome as faithful followers of Jesus Christ and should embrace their biological sex insofar as it may be known.

WE DENY that ambiguities related to a person's biological sex render one incapable of living a fruitful life in joyful obedience to Christ.

Article 7

WE AFFIRM that self-conception as male or female should be defined by God's holy purposes in creation and redemption as revealed in Scripture.

WE DENY that adopting a homosexual or transgender self-conception is consistent with God's holy purposes in creation and redemption.

Article 8

WE AFFIRM that people who experience sexual attraction for the same sex may live a rich and fruitful life pleasing to God through faith in Jesus Christ, as they, like all Christians, walk in purity of life.

WE DENY that sexual attraction for the same sex is part of the natural goodness of God's original creation, or that it puts a person outside the hope of the gospel.

Article 9

WE AFFIRM that sin distorts sexual desires by directing them away from the marriage covenant and toward sexual immorality— a distortion that includes both heterosexual and homosexual immorality.

WE DENY that an enduring pattern of desire for sexual immorality

justifies sexually immoral behavior.

Article 10

WE AFFIRM that it is sinful to approve of homosexual immorality or transgenderism and that such approval constitutes an essential departure from Christian faithfulness and witness.

WE DENY that the approval of homosexual immorality or transgenderism is a matter of moral indifference about which otherwise faithful Christians should agree to disagree.

Article 11

WE AFFIRM our duty to speak the truth in love at all times, including when we speak to or about one another as male or female.

WE DENY any obligation to speak in such ways that dishonor God's design of his image- bearers as male and female.

Article 12

WE AFFIRM that the grace of God in Christ gives both merciful pardon and transforming power, and that this pardon and power enable a follower of

Jesus to put to death sinful desires and to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.

WE DENY that the grace of God in Christ is insufficient to forgive all sexual sins and to give power for holiness to every believer who feels drawn into sexual sin.

Article 13

WE AFFIRM that the grace of God in Christ enables sinners to forsake transgender self- conceptions and by divine forbearance to accept the God-ordained link between one's biological sex and one's self-conception as male or female.

WE DENY that the grace of God in Christ sanctions self-conceptions that are at odds with God's revealed will.

Article 14

WE AFFIRM that Christ Jesus has come into the world to save sinners and that through Christ's death and resurrection forgiveness of sins and eternal life are available to every person who repents of sin and trusts in Christ alone as Savior, Lord, and supreme treasure.

WE DENY that the Lord's arm is too short to save or that any sinner is beyond his reach.

TRANSITION: What God's Word says is not just for Christians, but for all mankind. Here are seven truths that we ourselves must hold as Christians, and that we need to communicate clearly and kindly to others.

FIRST: GOD'S WORD IS THE FINAL AUTHORITY

God's written Word – the Scriptures which He breathed out – are the final authority on all matters. Where they speak, they speak with finality and force.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness ...” (Second Timothy 3:16, LSB)

Because the Bible is God's own Word, His voice in written form, we must not add to it or take away from it.

You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, **nor take away** from it, that you may keep the commandments of Yahweh your God which I am commanding you. (Deuteronomy 4:2, LSB)

The Kingdom of God is built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself – the Living Word – being the corner

stone. (Ephesians 2:20).

The Word is an anchor when the world around us is confused and contradictory.

SECOND: GOD'S WORD DEFINES MANKIND AS MALE AND FEMALE

Genesis 1:26-27 says,

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, so that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.** (Genesis 1:26-27)

Mankind is not male alone. Mankind is not male **or** female. Mankind is male **and** female. The first blessing given to mankind requires them to be male and female:

God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth ...**" (Genesis 1:28a)

By necessity, God's blessing is upon the sexual union of one man and one woman. We find in Genesis 2:24 that this sexual union creates a unique

relationship. Adam was a man before Eve; Eve was a woman once created from Adam's side. They only become husband and wife in sexual union with one another. A man without a wife is not a husband. A woman without a husband is not a wife.

TRANSITION: By God's design, then, mankind is male and female, and they were created for a single, narrowly defined, holy sexual union.

THIRD: GOD'S WORD NARROWLY DEFINES A SINGLE, HOLY, SEXUAL UNION

God created mankind for this union; that makes it holy. He created male and female for a sexual union that gives each a unique identity: a husband is a man with a wife; a wife is a woman with a husband.

The primary purpose of this single, holy, narrowly-defined sexual union is reproduction, in fulfillment of God's original blessing upon the human race.

Some might insist that the New Testament changed things. Not true. Jesus says,

And [Jesus] answered and said, "Have you not **read** [He calls them to yield to the written Word] that He who created them from the beginning **MADE THEM MALE**

AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A **MAN** SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS **WIFE**, AND **THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH**'? So **they are no longer two, but one flesh**. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate. (Matthew 19:4–6 LSB)

In other words, the Lord Jesus Christ repeats God's creative work and intention, and gives full weight to the Old Testament Scriptures.

In complete contrast to the spirit of the age, a man cannot be husband to a man, and a woman cannot be a wife to a woman.

TRANSITION: The Bible narrowly defines a holy sexual union. This is why any sexual union or activity outside of God's creative purpose and revealed will is sinful and to be rejected.

FOUR: GOD'S WORD BROADLY DEFINES SEXUAL SIN

Prohibitions against sexual immorality go far beyond "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Leviticus 18 is part of a passage of Scripture known as the holiness code. Yahweh required His people to be holy, living in full agreement and practice with His Law.

Leviticus 18:6-23 contains a detailed description of illicit, sinful sexual relationships. It begins with the statement,

“None of you shall approach any **blood relative** of his to uncover nakedness; I am Yahweh.” (Leviticus 18:6, LSB).

Blood relative is defined for us in the following verses: fathers, mothers, step-fathers, step-mothers, sisters, step-sisters, brothers, step-brothers, granddaughters, grandsons, aunts, uncles, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, step-daughters, and step-sons.

At some point as I read these relationships, did you cringe? Did it make your skin crawl? Did you find it disgusting, repulsive, sickening, unbelievable that anyone would need to be told not to be sexually joined to these family members? I hope so.

What Leviticus 18 tells us is that the nations in Canaan, the promised land, DID engage in these sort of sexual unions. God had judgment them for it, and even the very land was vomiting them out.

And then the Scripture specifically says,

And you shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female [or with a female as one lies with a male]; **it is an abomination**. Also you shall not lie with any animal to be made unclean with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; **it is a perversion**. (Leviticus 18:22-23).

The earlier unions would certainly be sinful. They are called wicked and defiling. But homosexual and bestial unions are worse; they are an abomination, a perversion. All sin is sin, but abominations and perversions face a greater measure of judgment.

TRANSITION: Before continuing on, let's summarize to this point.

SUMMARY

God's Word is the final authority. Not constantly changing human opinions and attitudes. Not the resolutions of human government. Not the shouting and screeching of activists. God's Word is final.

God's Word defines mankind as male and female. There are no other genders or sexes. Male and female are exclusionary; is person IS one OR the other.

God's Word narrowly defines a single, holy, sexual union. That single union is marriage between one man and one woman. Within that union a man becomes a husband and a woman becomes a wife.

God's Word broadly defines sexual sin. Our good God has eliminated all

doubt, and specifically named every prohibited relationship and union.

TRANSITION: There are many who insist that the Old Testament was canceled by the New Testament, and God now accepts homosexuals, transgenders, and others, and they can even be true Christians. What does the Bible say?

FIVE: THE NEW TESTAMENT SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITS HOMOSEXUALITY

This is what the Lord Jesus says through the apostle Paul in First Corinthians 6:9-10:

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the sexually immoral [which covers all sexual sin], nor idolaters, nor adulterers [which covers the specific sin of violating the marriage covenant], nor effeminate [men acting like women, therefore also women acting like men], nor homosexuals [men with men, or women with women], nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (First Corinthians 6:9-10)

In one sense the Bible does not single out homosexuals for special condemnation; no sinner, even those not named here, will inherit the Kingdom of God. They are all called unrighteous.

TRANSITION: But homosexuality is not just another sin.

SIX: GOD'S WORD SAYS THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS UNIQUE

We read this in Romans 1:21-27,

For even though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish heart was darkened. **[Who are "they"? Not certain people, but all of mankind.]** Professing to be wise, they became fools, and **exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the likeness of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures [this is idolatry, the religion of every culture].** Therefore **God gave them over** in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason **God gave them over to dishonorable passions;** for **their females exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,** and in the same way also **the males abandoned the natural function of the female and burned in their desire toward one another,** males with males committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. (Romans 1:21-27 LSB)

This makes homosexuality a unique sin. It is not just rebellion against God's creative purpose and express Law; it is also God's judgment against mankind for the sin of idolatry. The Creator blessing mankind with fruitfulness. God punishes their idolatry by taking away fruitfulness, not by

sterilizing them, but by giving them over to abomination.

Homosexuality is God's judgment, not simply on homosexuals, but on the whole human race. And instead of repenting, which people would do if they really were good inside, or had "good hearts," mankind is eagerly embracing the abominations and perversions of homosexuality as good and right, and condemning anyone who hesitates to celebrate it.

TRANSITION: Praise God, that isn't the end of the story.

THERE IS HOPE

This is what we must believe and communicate as Christians: Jesus Christ came to save sinners from the power, presence, and penalty of sin.

First Corinthians 6:9-10 warns that those who are sexually immoral, idolators, adulterous, effeminate, homosexual, thieves, greedy, drunkards, revilers, or swindlers, will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. As long as their lives are given to and marked by those sins, they faced eternal judgment.

But First Corinthians 6:11 says that there is strong hope:

And such WERE some of you [notice that word “were”]; **BUT** [this is why they WERE under the judgment of God, but are not under His judgment any longer] you were **washed** [by the blood Christ], **BUT** you were **sanctified** [by the death of Christ], **BUT** you were **justified** [declared righteous] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:11 LSB)

My beloved, this is the Gospel of Jesus Christ: there is hope for sinners through Jesus’ death and resurrection. This is the message the devil wants to silence. This the message he has convinced the Canadian government to silence, among others. This is the message the devil intends to silence in the United States, if God does not lift His hand. You see, if Christians are silenced through intimidation, imprisonment, or violence – if there is no one to preach – then, how will the wicked hear? If the wicked do not hear, they cannot believe. If they do not believe, they will not call on Jesus. And if they will not call on Him, they have no hope.

Jesus said during His ministry,

So Jesus said to them, “For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you **have** the Light, **believe** in the Light, so that you **may become sons** of Light.” These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them. (John 12:35-36)

Let’s pray.