

I. Introduction.

- A. The world has sought to radically redefine marriage and family. Judg. 21:25
- B. Our understanding of the divine origin of marriage is crucial. Gen. 1:1
  - 1. Mankind is not autonomous: we are created by God and we are accountable to Him.
  - 2. Mankind is not merely an animal. We are made in God's image. Gen. 1:26-27
  - 3. Marriage is a creation ordinance. Genesis 2:18-25 Eph. 5:28 Mt. 19:4-5
  - 4. God designed marriage and brought together the first man and woman in a covenant of companionship. Mal. 2:14 Pr. 2:17 Ezek. 16:8 Is. 54:5
  - 5. Because God's Word is infallible, timeless and fully sufficient, His design for marriage does not evolve or change. Isa. 40:8 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- C. Marriage is a lifelong covenant of companionship between a man and a woman which has been established by God and before the community.

II. Marriage is made in heaven. Gen. 2:18-23

- A. It is not good for you to be alone. Gen. 2:18-20
  - 1. A shocking statement – “not good”. Gen. 2:18 1:4,10,12,18,21,25,31
  - 2. Marriage is designed by God to make you complete.
  - 3. Some, however, have the gift of singleness. 1 Cor. 7:1,7-8,32-34 Mt. 19:12
- B. You need a suitable helper. v. 19-20
  - 1. Why does God bring all of the animals to the man?
  - 2. God made men and women to complete each other in marriage. 1 Pe. 3:7
  - 3. Only a woman can complete a man and only a man can complete a woman.
- C. God provides a helper for the man. v. 21-23
  - 1. Why does God choose such an unusual method for creating the woman? v. 21-22 2:7,19 1:3,6,9,14,20,24,26 3:19
  - 2. The husband should respect his wife because she is also made in God's image. 1:27 1 Co. 7:8-9 1 Pe. 3:7 Gal. 3:28
  - 3. The husband ought to cherish his wife as part of himself. Eph. 5:28-29
  - 4. Adam understands and rejoices in what God has done for him. v. 23 Eph. 5:29
- D. The first marriage reveals God's design for the roles of both husband and wife.
  - 1. Male headship was God's plan from the beginning. 1 Co. 11:3 1 Ti. 3:13
  - 2. The woman is created for the sake of the man. v.18 1 Co. 11:8-9
  - 3. The man exercises authority by naming the animals and his wife. v. 20,23 3:20
  - 4. The Fall has led to the corruption of marriage roles. Gen. 3:16 4:7 1 Pe. 3:1ff
  - 5. The gospel makes the redemption of marriage possible. Eph. 4:31-32 5:1-2,22ff

III. Does God create some people to be homosexual? James 1:13-16

- A. As our culture embraces homosexuality we need to be prepared to give honest, compassionate biblical answers. Isa. 5:20 Ro. 1:32 1 Pet. 3:15 2 Ti. 3:16f
- B. Homosexuality is contrary to God's design and His law.
  - 1. God's design is for one man and one woman to come together sexually in the covenant of marriage. Gen. 2:18-25

2. God's law forbids all sexual activity outside of marriage between a husband and wife. Heb. 13:4 Lev. 20:10-16
  3. God's Word explicitly forbids homosexual behavior of all kinds. Lev. 18:22 20:13  
Jude 1:7 1 Tim. 1:10
  4. A culture which celebrates sexual deviancy has been given over by God. Ro. 1:26-27
- C. Why do some people experience same sex attraction (SSA)?
1. Some suggest that genetic or environmental factors (nature and nurture) lead to SSA.
  2. Nature and nurture are influences, but they are not determinative. Js. 1:13-15  
2 Co. 5:17 1 Pe. 1:18
  3. We are all sinners by nature. Rom. 3:10ff Jer. 17:9 Pr. 14:12 Isa. 53:6
  4. We all live in a fallen world which is full of evil influences. Ro. 12:2 1 Jo. 5:19
  5. Different people struggle with different temptations. 1 Co. 10:13 Mark 7:21-23
  6. Our culture wrongly assumes that whatever someone desires (especially in the sexual realm) is good and normal. Judges 21:25 Prov. 14:12 Isa. 5:20
  7. Scripture teaches that certain desires are sinful. Mt. 5:27-28 Js. 1:13-15
- D. How can people with same sex attraction be helped?
1. We should reflect Jesus' compassion for our fellow sinners. Mt. 9:36 11:28-30  
Heb. 2:17
  2. Our objective is not to merely see people changed from homosexual sinners to heterosexual sinners (fornicators and adulterers).
  3. The gospel gives us a new identity and sets us free from slavery to sin. Rom. 6:1ff  
1 Co. 6:9-11 2 Co. 5:17 Mark 8:34
  4. For Christians who struggle with SSA, homosexual temptation must be battled in the same way that all other temptation is fought. Rom. 8:13 6:11-14 2 Tim. 2:22 2 Co. 4:16 5:17 Gal. 5:16ff Mt. 5:27ff
  5. Some former homosexuals may continue to struggle with SSA, just as other Christians continue to battle against their former sins. Rom. 7
  6. Some former homosexuals experience a transformation in their desires and marry someone of the opposite sex.
  7. Some who are still tempted by SSA strive to walk in purity while remaining single. 1 Cor. 7:7 Mt. 19:12
- E. What should we do in times such as these?
1. We should seek to be an influence for good in our culture. Jer. 29:7 Mt. 5:13-16
  2. We must uphold biblical truth without compromise or apology. Rom. 12:1-2 Acts 5:29 Dan. 3:16-18
  3. We must be prepared to suffer. 2 Tim. 3:12 Mt. 5:11-12
  4. We should be kind to all. Gal. 6:10 1 Co. 5:9-11
  5. We should offer compassionate help to Christians who struggle with SSA and other sexual temptations. 1 Th. 5:14 Heb. 12:12
  6. We offer the gospel as the only hope for every sinner.
  7. Pray for our nation. 1 Tim 2:1ff

#### IV. Concluding Applications.

Recommended resources:

*Coming Out: Compassion and Truth for Freedom from Homosexuality*, by Tom Maxham.

*What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality?*, by Kevin DeYoung

### Discussion questions

1. Why is it essential that Genesis 1-3 be understood as historic events and not myths?
2. How does a wrong understanding of Genesis 1-3 lead to a wrong view of marriage?
3. If it is “not good” to be alone, why are some people single?
4. What does Genesis 2:18-23 teach about the nature and purpose of marriage?
5. What do we learn in Genesis 2 about marriage roles?
6. How would you answer someone who claims that God made him/her gay?
7. Why do some people experience same sex attraction?
8. How is SSA similar to other temptations? How is it different?
9. What hope does the gospel offer those who are tempted by SSA?
10. How should we interact with homosexuals in our churches, our families and our communities?

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## **ARTICLE X: ADDITIONAL MATTERS OF FAITH AND PRACTICE**

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### **SECTION 1. FINAL AUTHORITY ON MATTERS OF FAITH AND PRACTICE**

Grace Bible Church’s Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the infallible, authoritative Word of God is the final authority concerning all matters of truth, morality, and conduct. For purposes of Grace Bible Church’s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Elder Board is Grace Bible Church’s final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application.

### **SECTION 2. THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE**

We believe in the sanctity of all human life, that it is created by God in His image, and is of inestimable worth. This is true for pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and during every other stage or condition of human life from conception through natural death. We are also called to defend, protect, and value all human life, consistent with Biblical imperatives (Psalm 139).

### **SECTION 3. THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE**

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man and a woman, under God, Grace Bible Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the Elders, Deacons and staff of Grace Bible Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Grace Bible Church shall only host weddings or wedding receptions celebrating the marriage of one man and one woman.

## SECTION 4. STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; I Corinthians 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are not in accord with Scripture, nor the doctrines of Grace Bible Church, and are to be repudiated.

Furthermore, we believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as a male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union as defined in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (I Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God condemns all sexual activity engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matthew 15:18-20; I Corinthians 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Grace Bible Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to its members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Grace Bible Church in any capacity, as well as ministry leaders and those who serve as volunteers agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; I Thessalonians 5:22).