

## **BCC Position on Marriage and Human Sexuality**

The following affirmations, statements, and resolutions represent the official position of Bridges Community Church (BCC) with regard to the subjects of marriage and human sexuality.

- We hold to the biblical Christian definition of marriage and sexual intimacy as the exclusive, lifelong union of one man and one woman in holy covenant with God and with one another. We further believe that God instituted marriage to be an earthly picture of Christ's relationship with the church. Toward that end, then, we desire to be a church where marriage relationships are nurtured and strengthened through loving community and through biblical teaching and training on the subjects of marriage, relationships and sexual intimacy.
- We affirm that God's revealed will for all people is chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage. We furthermore affirm that any sexual relations outside of marriage – including, but not limited to sexual immorality, adultery, polygamy, premarital sex, and same-sex activity – are inconsistent with God's will as revealed in Scripture.
- We affirm that the Bible consistently condemns all homosexual practice as sin, including between married persons and/or those who consider themselves to be married. However, we do *not* believe that the Bible describes homosexuality as a "greater" sin than any other. All sin is offensive to God, but God's forgiveness is available to all who turn from their sins and receive the free gift of salvation through belief in Jesus Christ's substitutionary sacrifice on the cross.
- We affirm that all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, have been created in the image of God and should be accorded human dignity.
- We affirm that those who experience same-sex attraction may live a rich and fruitful life pleasing to God through faith in Jesus Christ and by walking in biblical purity.
- We affirm that God created two immutable genders, male and female.
- We resolve to express our love to those with same-sex attractions and to all within the LGBT+ community. We furthermore resolve to stand against any and all forms of gay-bashing, disrespectful attitudes, hateful rhetoric or actions, or harassment of persons who are same-sex attracted and/or those who identify with the LGBT+ community.
- We resolve to treat all who follow Christ as new creations in Christ, reminding each other that our true identity is not based on sexuality or self-expression, but on our union with Christ.
- The elders and pastoral staff at BCC are willing and available to meet with anyone who would like to have further dialogue on any of the statements made above. Furthermore, we are committed to walking alongside all who desire to explore and follow Jesus and what that may look like in our lives.

### **Scripture References**

Gen. 1:26-28, 2:15-25; Ex. 20:14, 17; Lev. 18:22, 20:13; Matt. 5:27-30, 19:4-6, 8-9, 12; Acts 15:20, 29; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 18-20; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 4:20-24, 5:31-32; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; 1 Tim. 1:9-10, 15; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 2:11; Jude 7