

## **Life Bridge Christian Church**

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

#### **Section 1: Statement on Sexual Sin**

Recognizing that we all struggle with sin, Life Bridge Christian Church will provide an environment that welcomes people who struggle with sexual sin. We will seek to love all people in Jesus' name, pointing them towards Christ's power to forgive and heal.

We believe that the Bible teaches that those who engage in sexual sin, sin against their own body. We also recognize that sexual sin is not characterized in Scripture as being more severe than other forms of sin. We will seek God to discern ways that we can directly and indirectly minister and share God's love with those who struggle with every kind of sin.

We also recognize that there is a difference between temptation and behavior, and while temptation is sometimes unavoidable, we are responsible for our behavior. Never the less, we hold firmly to the Scriptures as binding on the conduct of our leadership and the church body.

#### **Section 2: Marriage and Sexual Sin**

Marriage is a union ordained by God. It was first instituted by God in the early chapters of Genesis, and condensed into the Levitical Law. The Old Testament prophets compared it to a relationship between God and His people, examples of it are in the historical narratives, and the wisdom literature discusses the unique unity of this relationship. Jesus explained the original intention and core elements of marriage, and several New Testament Epistles give explicit instructions on this union. Marriage is a typology of Christ and the Church. As such, the Church views marriage as a profound spiritual institution established by God.

The Apostle Paul states in Ephesians 5:22-32 that marriage is not merely a human institution, but is a special divine metaphor that is supposed to illustrate the union of Christ and the Church. For this reason also, only a union between a man (male) and a woman (female) can be a proper marriage because a union between two males, two females, one male and multiple females, or any collection of people could not properly illustrate the relationship between Christ and His Church.

First Corinthians 6:9-11 condemns a variety of lifestyles including those associated with adultery, prostitution, and homosexuality. The Bible condemns all forms of sexual immorality and encourages Christians to flee from it because of its destructive effects and because the body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:12-20)

Romans 1:18-32 makes it clear that it is not only sinful to engage in homosexual unions, but also to approve of such sins, referred to above, in others or encourage their practice. As a result, in order to maintain our consistent Christian witness, we cannot sanction, approve, or promote, in any way, adultery, fornication (a sexual relationship between an unmarried man and woman who are not married; i.e. “living together”), pornography, pedophilia, polyamory (an “open marriage” with multiple sexual partners), polygamy, bestiality, or same-sex unions. This is made clear also by many other verses throughout the Old Testament, as well as other passages in the New Testament.

Life Bridge Christian Church follows what the Bible reveals as the “sure foundation” of the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Apostles (Matthew 7:24-29 and 1 Corinthians 14:37). The church is called to teach and practice these teachings and is not at liberty to depart from them for a different authority if it is to authentically bear the name “Christian”. Though we strive to live peaceably with all people and to obey legitimate government authority, in instances involving matters as foundational as marriage, we must ultimately obey God rather than man when the two come into conflict (Acts. 4:18-22).

Sexual activities outside of marriage, including but not limited to fornication, adultery, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia, polyamory and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. Lewd conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation, distribution or viewing of pornography are also incompatible with God’s intention.

### **Section 3: Application of This Policy**

As a result of these above described religious beliefs and our commitment to practice fidelity to these beliefs, it is our policy that the facilities of Life Bridge Christian Church may not be used or rented for any ceremony that in any way approves of, solemnizes, supports, or allows a same-sex union, a polygamist union, or any union which, in the judgment of the Elders of Life Bridge Christian Church, constitutes sexual immorality. It is also the policy of the Church that no minister or member of the Church Staff shall officiate at any ceremony designed to solemnize, promote, create, or approve of such a union. Nor may any member of the Church enter into such a union without being subject to potential Church Discipline.

A civil government’s sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the Church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of marriage found in this article.

- We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man (male) and one woman (female) in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

- We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman.
- We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, same-sex behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's gender, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.
- We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to the Church Members and the Community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity, or who serve as ministry leaders, should abide by and agree to this Article on Marriage and Human Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.
- We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or negative attitudes directed toward any individual are to be renounced and are not in accord with Scripture or its doctrines.