

Article IV
Moral and Social Issues

SECTION 1. HUMAN SEXUALITY.

We believe that God has commanded that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex.

Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23

We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10, Eph. 5:22-23

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. Only men are eligible for the office of elder, licensure, and ordination by the Church.

Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; I Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12

SECTION 2. GENDER

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

Section 3. Divorce and Remarriage.

We believe that God hates divorce and intends for marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery according to Scripture, except on the grounds of sexual immorality. A repentant couple that has sought the forgiveness of God for their previous marriage and is now re-married and living for Christ will be recognized according to 1 Timothy 3:2 as a “husband of one wife.”

We acknowledge that the subject of divorce and remarriage is biblically challenging in its interpretation and requires prayerful discernment and often a team of wise counselors in its personal application. In all instances, it includes complexity and nuance that cannot be over-simplified into a blanket policy, but requires prudence, patience and pastoral sensibility.

The elders will evaluate each instance that has implications upon the church with Scriptural integrity and grace.

SECTION 4. ABORTION.

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life.

Job 3:16; Psa. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44