

Sandborn First Christian Church Statement on Marriage, Gender, & Sexuality

Sandborn First Christian Church (SFCC) welcomes the privilege that our civil government gives us to solemnize marriages as part of our Christian ministry. Our convictions about the nature of marriage are governed by the same Biblical authority that informs all our teaching and doctrine. Therefore, we will in good conscience, only perform weddings (or allow weddings in our facilities) consistent with the view of marriage expressed in the statement below. SFCC Staff and/or Board are charged with the oversight of this church and shall not allow weddings in SFCC facilities that they deem unbiblical or unwise. Staff shall not officiate, solemnize, or participate in a same-sex marriage, nor participate in couple's counseling for same-sex partners, while employed by SFCC. Additionally, couples participating in marriage or couples classes or events sponsored by SFCC shall be in agreement with the following statement, with the exception of specific support groups and counseling offered to those who struggle with sexual sins.

Our Statement of Marriage, Gender, & Sexuality can be summarized as followed:

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. (Gen 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
- that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 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. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- 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. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10)
- that in order to preserve the function and integrity of SFCC as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the SFCC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by SFCC in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22)
- 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; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11) If a person desiring to become a member of SFCC is involved in an inappropriate sexual relationship, whether homosexuality, adultery, cohabiting without marriage, or other, he or she will be asked to repent and commit to a life of sexual purity. Any person willing to make such a commitment will be accepted into membership. (1 Cor 5:9-13)
- 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 to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of SFCC. Everyone, regardless of sexual orientation may worship at SFCC and will be treated with utmost respect.