

POLICY STATEMENT of the Louisville Regional Baptist Association MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

Recognizing the significant shift in cultural and legal understanding regarding marriage, gender, and sexuality we desire to affirm a Biblical position that recognizes our call to love God, love others and to speak the truth in that love. Our desire is not to make political statements, but to call all persons to follow Christ as faithful and obedient disciples. As an association of churches we believe:

Section 1. Scripture affirms that God offers redemption and restoration to those who confess and forsake their sin, by seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 6:11 — And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. [ESV]

Section 2. Every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior and attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

Matthew 22:37-39 — Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. [ESV]

Section 3. The term "marriage" has only one meaning. According to Scripture, marriage is an institution sanctioned by God, which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

Genesis 2:23:24 — Then_ the man (Adam) said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. [ESV]

Matthew 19:4-6 — He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let not man separate. " [ESV]

Section 4. Scripture calls for sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that scripture has commanded that no intimate sexual activities be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

Hebrews 13:4 — Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. [ESV]

Section 5. God's design for humanity is the creation of two distinct and complementary sexes, male and female. This serves as a fundamental distinction in the biology of the human race. God's design also makes no distinction between a person's gender identity and his or her biological birth sex. Therefore, any effort to identify as another perceived gender, also known as transgenderism, denies God's good design. This includes altering one's body (e.g., cross-sex hormone therapy, gender reassignment surgery) to refashion it to conform with one's perceived gender identity.

Genesis 1:27 — So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. [ESV]

Section 5. Any form of sexual immorality, such as, but not all inclusive of, adultery, fornication, homosexual or bisexual conduct, incest, pornography, and any attempt to change one's gender, is sinful. These are not the only sins nor is the temptation toward them sin itself, but these actions are clearly identified as sin in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 — Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. [ESV]

Therefore, to preserve the function and integrity of the Louisville Regional Baptist Association as a local body of churches and as an organization, we expect that all persons who serve as employees or contract employees (as defined by the IRS), and churches that are considered in membership with the association, as well as organizations who receive funding and support, or those who utilize associational facilities, shall agree to this Policy Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.