

HILLTOP COMMUNITY CHURCH
Statement of Faith on Biblical Marriage and Sexuality
Adopted 2015

The Authority of the Bible

The church's mission is to proclaim the truth expressed in the 66 books of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. This statement does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe and proclaim (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*). For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Elders are the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Marriage and Sexuality: What We Believe, Proclaim, and Practice

- We proclaim that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: one man and one woman joined by God in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in the Bible (*Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6*). The church building shall only be used, and the pastors shall only conduct marriage ceremonies consistent with this definition, since doing otherwise would be unbiblical and inconsistent with the message of the church.
- We proclaim that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We also proclaim what God has clearly commanded in the Bible: no intimate sexual activity should be practiced outside of a marriage between a man and a woman (*Proverbs 5:16-23; Ephesians 5:1-10; Hebrews 13:4*).
- We proclaim that *any* form of sexual immorality is sinful and offensive to God (*Matthew 19:3-9; Mark 7:18-23; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Timothy 1:8-11*).
- To all involved in such behavior, we proclaim the good news of the gospel. God offers redemption and restoration-- a brand-new life and lifestyle -- to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (*1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; cp. John 8:1-12*).
- At Hilltop Community Church, we stand ready to counsel and help anyone struggling with sexual immorality and temptation. God's grace, mercy, and power are available to all who call upon Him (*Acts 2:21; Romans 6:1-14; 10:9-13*).
- It is imperative to the church's message that all persons employed by the church or serving as volunteers in any capacity agree to this statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly, with the help of God. Any employee or volunteer who does not agree to or abide by this Statement may be dismissed.
- We proclaim that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with the Bible nor the message of the Hilltop Community Church (*Matthew 6:14-15; 7:1-5, 12; Colossians 4:6; 1 Peter 3:8-17*).