

# Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

## **Statement on Marriage and Sexuality**

Combie Bible Church endeavors to faithfully interpret and live by the Holy Bible which we believe to be inerrant and infallible. It is God's "instruction manual" for all followers of Jesus Christ, including all staff and employees, lay leaders and members at Combie Bible Church. The Bible is the authority under which we make all ministry operating decisions and all church conduct and policies must be consistent with Scripture. Our church, its ministers, employees, members and its properties exist only to serve and be used for biblical principles and shall not be used for purposes in contravention of the Holy Scriptures including but not limited to performing homosexual marriages.

We believe Scripture teaches that term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

We believe Scripture teaches that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur 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 a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe Scripture teaches that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender, is sinful and offensive to God. Consequently, we will not perform marriages other than between one man and one woman, nor will we recognize as valid a plural or homosexual marriage whether approved by another church, a state government or the Federal Government. We assume a person's gender is that which is identified on their birth certificate.

We believe Scripture teaches that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and turn away from their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. This

biblical principle applies to sexual sin as it does to any other sin from which a person truly repents as defined by Scripture.

We believe Scripture teaches 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, and above all, because it is commanded by God through the Scripture, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, or those who seek membership must agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe Scripture teaches 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 Scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

Policies for Staff and Properties. For these reasons and given the place of honor and holiness that marriage is accorded in Scripture, Combie Bible Church adopts the following policies.

Pastors. Combie Bible Church shall employ no ministerial staff member or employee who does not verify that they personally affirm the truths set forth herein and agree to comply with the same. Any pastor or minister employed by Combie Bible Church who performs or participates in a same sex wedding ceremony, or who acts personally in a manner that is in contravention of the policy on marriage and sexuality shall be terminated.

Preventing Other Ministers from Conducting Ceremonies. No Minister other than those in a direct ministerial employment relationship with Combie Bible Church or pastors or ministers who Combie Bible Church understands to be in agreement with and accept the truths behind these marriage policies, shall be allowed to conduct or participate in wedding ceremonies on our premises.

Prohibiting Inconsistent Uses on Our Properties. No marriage ceremony will be conducted at Combie Bible Church unless it involves a Christian marriage between a man and a woman as set forth herein. No event will be allowed on church property that proclaims or endorses the acceptability of any alleged marital relationship contrary to the biblical truths set forth herein.

Wedding Applicants. All persons desiring to be married at Combie Bible Church or by a member of our pastoral staff off premises shall be required to complete pre-marital counseling with one of our staff members or another minister or pastor acceptable to Combie Bible Church who confirms his agreement with these policies. No marriage or other ceremony shall be performed for any couple who are not qualified in accordance with our policies on marriage. The Pastor conducting the pre-marital counseling has discretionary authority to recommend to the Elder Board that in his judgment the couple is not ready for or should not be married at Combie Bible Church or by any of our ministerial staff members. The Elder Board shall decide, in its discretion but in conformity with our policies and bylaws whether or not the church will allow the marriage to be held at the church or to be performed by a ministerial staff member and will so advise the couple.

Right to Deny Applicants. Combie Bible Church reserves the right to refuse to allow any visiting pastor to participate in a wedding or other ministry event at the Church. The church reserves the right to refuse to allow the use of church property or facilities to perform any wedding ceremony or other event that is inconsistent with the church's statement of faith and contrary to Biblical standards for marriage and with this marriage policy.