



## **Statement on Human Sexuality**

June 2013

## Statement on Human Sexuality

At Redemption Hill Church(RHC) we are committed to a biblical worldview that seeks to glorify God, recognizing and affirming Christ as King in every aspect of the created order and in every sphere of human endeavor. There is nothing over which the Lord Jesus Christ is not pre-eminent and to which he is irrelevant. As such, our mission as a church includes equipping the people of God to view every area of their lives, including their sexuality, as under the Lordship of Christ and in submission to what God has revealed in his written word, the Bible. The desired outcome is an inherently consistent inner life manifested in a lived-out spirituality.

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In keeping with our mission and commitment to biblical fidelity, all members of the RHC community are expected to follow the teachings of Scripture. We believe that the only authoritative and trustworthy norm for proper moral judgments is what God has revealed in his Word. Therefore, RHC affirms that sexual intimacy is designed by God to be expressed solely within a marriage between one man and one woman. This view of sexuality and marriage is rooted in the Genesis account of creation, reflected in the teachings of Jesus Christ himself, and is maintained consistently throughout Scripture. It is a view based on the biblical teaching of monogamy—that God designed sexual union for the purpose of uniting one man and one woman into a permanent, lifelong, one flesh union in the context of marriage. God created two complementary forms of humans, male and female, to bear His image together (Gen 1:27-28), and ordained that the first human pair were to become one flesh (Gen 2:23-24). These and other similar passages show that God views sex, procreation and marriage as good, and that male and female are necessary counterparts—differentiated partners—in a sexual complementarity. Sexual intimacy and the sexual union of intercourse between a man and a woman are intended for a purpose—to join one husband and one wife together into one flesh in the context of marriage (I Cor 6:16).

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Our marriages on earth model the relationship between Christ and His bride, the church (Eph 5:31-33), a melding that the Apostle Paul calls “a profound mystery.” This God-initiated oneness, as detailed in Genesis, is clearly recognized and affirmed by Jesus in terms of the marital union of husband and wife (Matt 19:4-6). Any sexual intimacy outside of marriage violates God’s design for marriage, and is thus to be understood as one of the disruptive consequences of the fall (Rom 1:18-32).

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Thus, God’s design for marriage and sexuality is the foundational reason for viewing acts of sexual intimacy between a man and a woman outside of marriage, and any act of sexual intimacy between two persons of the same sex, as illegitimate moral options for the confessing Christian. Sexual relations of any kind outside the confines of marriage between one man and one woman are inconsistent with the teaching of Scripture, as understood by Christian churches throughout history. On the other hand, chastity in the form of sexual purity for the unmarried person and chastity in the form of sexual faithfulness in marriage are blessed and affirmed. Therefore, as part of living out a consistent, biblical spirituality, one dedicated to the pursuit of Christ-likeness, all members of our community are expected to avoid sexual intimacy outside of marriage and to refrain from encouraging the same in others. Indeed, whatever one’s personal tendencies and desires, the call of Christ on our lives is the same: sexual purity manifest among the married as complete faithfulness and by those who are unmarried by living a chaste life (1 Thess 4:3-8).

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Sexual purity honors God. For those in our community who are attracted to persons of the opposite sex and struggle to maintain sexual purity, as well as for those in our community who struggle with same-sex behavior, same-sex attraction and/or sexual orientation issues, we aspire to be a gracious community that promotes openness and honesty. We will seek to extend compassion and care, providing accountability and assistance as we support all members of our community in their desire to live consistently with Christian teaching. We are committed to engaging difficult conversations with humility and love, prayerfulness and care, and all

members of our church will be taught to treat one another with respect and Christ-like compassion. Hateful, bigoted or destructive interactions will not be tolerated.

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We believe, in accordance with Scripture, that we are all sinful and that we sin in different ways. The God who knows us intimately, all of our thoughts and deeds, provides not only redemption through Christ, but also promises forgiveness for all of our sins and freedom from the power of sin. Therefore, a primary goal is to help each member of our church to grow in Christ in the midst of his or her unique history and struggles and discern how to walk righteously with Him and others along the way.

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It is our prayer that by the grace of God, as we follow Christ as the authority over every aspect of our lives, that our love may abound more and more with knowledge and all discernment, so that we may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless until the day of Christ...to the glory and praise of God (Phil 1:9-11).



**Human Sexuality:  
Frequently Asked Questions and Resources**  
*June 2013*

## Redemption Hill Church Frequently Asked Questions:

There are a number of important issues to keep in focus.

One, a central emphasis needs to be placed on WHBC's core values—what we believe in as a church, such as found in our doctrinal statements and our key theological underpinnings.

*Two*, there should be clarity sought when defining terms such as “sexual identity,” “same-sex attraction,” “same-sex orientation,” and “same-sex behavior.” These terms are highly contentious, but only if misunderstood or misused.

*Three*, we need to communicate what is truly important to us (i.e., “to glorify God in all things, at all costs, by all means, and in all people.”) This includes the value we place on walking beside, engaging with, and assisting the church body as we navigate through life and difficult issues.

### **Possible Questions:**

**1. *Do we have individuals at RHC who struggle with same-sex attraction or homosexuality?***

The reality is that we have people in our community who struggle with same-sex attraction and homosexuality. We connect and meet with some people that struggle, are working through, and are trying to understand their same-sex attraction.

**2. *How will we respond to individuals who may struggle in this area?***

When a person approaches us and communicates that he or she is struggling with same-sex behavior, same-sex attraction, and/or sexual orientation issues we aim to offer safety that promotes openness. We pledge to extend compassion and care communicating personal acceptance, while providing accountability and assistance supporting them in their desire to live consistently with biblical, Christian teaching.

**3. *Does RHC provide counseling for those who are struggling with homosexual orientation, thinking, or behaviors?***

We connect and meet with many people that struggle, are working through, and are trying to understand their same-sex attraction. Is one of the options that can be helpful for them counseling? Yes. This needs to be an individual choice, and many of those that do find counseling really helpful.

**4. *How does RHC come alongside someone who struggles with homosexual thoughts but is attempting to live a chaste lifestyle?***

People are best supported when they are able to share their questions, struggles and self-understanding with trusted others. In the midst of their struggle, we will walk with them, listen, and engage them in their development and their journey. Is it possible for these individuals to worship in the RHC community, thrive in this community and live according to biblical standards? Yes, definitely.

**5. *Is homosexuality a sin?***

Yes, same-sex behavior is contrary to specific biblical teaching and what we believe as a church. With that being said, we are committed to helping people to develop toward their daily Christ-like practices.

**6. *Is homosexuality a choice?***

From our opinion the science is still unclear as to whether same-sex attraction and/or homosexuality is a choice. Whether they are or are not a choice, we are going to walk with people in their unique story struggles and help them navigate their story.

**7. *Did God make people homosexual?***

We live in a broken world, and in the context of the brokenness of this world it is a fact that some people are attracted to members of the same sex. Let us repeat the answer from above: From our opinion the science is still unclear as to the role that choice plays in determining a person's attractions. We do believe that by the power of God's Holy Spirit, a believer can choose again and again to turn away from homosexual behaviors and homoerotic thoughts.

**8. *Does RHC have a LGBTQ support group?***

No, we don't have one. If members asked for one we would be open to designing and creating a place for them to talk and engage as long as it supported our core values. We would be open to having a place where men and women could come and engage and process and talk and hear from other peers as long as it (again) supported our values as a church.

**9. *Does RHC have any resources for someone who is interested in this area?***

Yes, we have provided a number of resources. See the next page for a recommended list.

## Redemption Hill Church

### Resources: Sexuality

#### Statement on Sexuality

(Attach link here)

#### Recommended Books

1. Yarhouse, Mark A (2010). *Homosexuality and the Christian: A guide for parents, pastors, and friends*, Bethany House Publishers.
2. Robert Gagnon, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*
3. Hill, Wesley (2010). *Washed and waiting*, Zondervan.

#### Other Books

1. Konrad, Jeff (1987). *You don't have to be gay*, Pacific Publishing House.
2. Payne, Leanne (1981). *The broken image: Restoring personal wholeness through healing prayer*, Hamewith Books an imprint of Baker Publishing Group.
3. Schmidt, Thomas E (1995). *Straight and narrow?*, IVP.
4. Evangelical Alliance Policy Commission (2000). *Transsexuality*, Evangelical Alliance.
5. Richard B. Hays, *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: Community, Cross, New Creation: A Contemporary Introduction to New Testament Ethics* (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996), pp. 379-406
6. Jenell Williams Paris, *The End of Sexual Identity: Why Sex Is Too Important to Define Who We Are* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2011)

#### Helpful Articles

1. Yarhouse, Mark A (2010). *At the intersection of religious and sexual identities: A christian perspective on homosexuality*, Christ on Campus Initiative – Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.
2. Yarhouse, Mark A (2012). *Integration in the study of homosexuality, GLBT issues, and sexual identity*.
3. Yarhouse, M.A., Tan, E.S.N. & Pawlowski, L.M. (2005). *Sexual Identity Development and Synthesis Among LGB-Identified and LGB Dis-Identified Persons*. *Journal of Psychology & Theology*, 33(1), 3-16.
4. Walter Moberly, 'The Use of Scripture in Contemporary Debates about Homosexuality', *Theology* 103 (2000), pp. 251-58

#### Videos

1. Bill Hybels on the CEO of Starbucks, Howard Shultz's, cancellation  
<http://michaelhyatt.com/videos/bill-hybels-on-howard-schultz%E2%80%99s-cancellation>
2. Matt Jensen's talk on homosexuality and singleness  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nr1ABKXY1YI>