
THE BRIDGE'S STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe in God - Father, Son and Spirit. We believe salvation is only through faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord, and that this faith will result in good work in this world.

We believe God loves all people and all people are of sacred worth. We believe in the Church as the community that is called to be instruments of God's love and coming reign in Jesus Christ.

We believe in the final victory of God's reign of love, compassion, generosity and peace.

As image bearers of God and as followers of Jesus, this is the standard that is our goal—this goal can only be affected with God's help.

We believe that the Bible is the authoritative word from God and it is true, and thus it contains the weight of divine authority for teaching, rebuking and training. Also, it should be lived out using Jesus as the most critical interpretive grid, because Christ is at the center of the Christian Bible.

While we believe that scripture is the ultimate authority for our faith, we also believe that interpreting scripture faithfully is complex. It requires examining the context of individual passages within the whole of scripture, the cultural context and original languages scripture was written in, the fruit of different interpretations, and biases that may be inherent in our personal assumptions.

We also believe that working to love one another, maintaining relationships with those we disagree with and submitting to one another for the sake of unity is a crucial part of our Christian witness. We will demonstrate these beliefs not by avoiding challenging topics, but by cultivating a community that can hold the weight of these conversations, so that we might continue to be sharpened by each other and grow in Christlikeness.



As we have prayed, studied, and listened to each other and the Holy Spirit around the topic of LGBTQ inclusion and same-sex relationships, the board of elders of our church has affirmed the following theological statement:

We believe that interpreting the Bible on the topic of same-sex relationships is complex, and as a result, applying it in a way that consistently reflects, and draws people to Jesus in our culture is unclear. Given this complexity, we believe

multiple interpretations of Scripture are valid. We will be gracious as we apply our policies, while allowing for disagreement.

Practically, this will mean that:

The Bridge will welcome LGBTQ people as members.
The Bridge will welcome LGBTQ people as teachers, lay leaders, elders, and deacons.

We will continue to consider each individual's unique gifts, abilities and passion for ministry, together with their relationship with God and evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in their lives as we welcome people into these leadership roles.

It will also mean that:

The Bridge will not call LGBTQ people to serve as pastors at the Bridge.
Pastors at the Bridge will not perform marriages for LGBTQ people, however, they may assist LGBTQ people in finding a pastor from a church that is able to perform marriages.

As a church, we are on a journey of learning how to hold this position in a way that creates safety for people who hold different positions, encourages respectful dialogue, and represents the love of Christ.

The Bridge Leadership
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