



NASHVILLE

STATEMENT

A COALITION FOR BIBLICAL SEXUALITY

*“Know that the LORD Himself is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves...”
-Psalm 100:3*

Preamble

Evangelical Christians at the dawn of the twenty-first century find themselves living in a period of historic transition. As Western culture has become increasingly post-Christian, it has embarked upon a massive revision of what it means to be a human being. By and large the spirit of our age no longer discerns or delights in the beauty of God’s design for human life. Many deny that God created human beings for his glory, and that his good purposes for us include our personal and physical design as male and female. It is common to think that human identity as male and female is not part of God’s beautiful plan, but is, rather, an expression of an individual’s autonomous preferences. The pathway to full and lasting joy through God’s good design for his creatures is thus replaced by the path of shortsighted alternatives that, sooner or later, ruin human life and dishonor God.

This secular spirit of our age presents a great challenge to the Christian church. Will the church of the Lord Jesus Christ lose her biblical conviction, clarity, and courage, and blend into the spirit of the age? Or will she hold fast to the word of life, draw courage from Jesus, and unashamedly proclaim his way as the way of life? Will she maintain her clear, counter-cultural witness to a world that seems bent on ruin?

We are persuaded that faithfulness in our generation means declaring once again the true story of the world and of our place in it—particularly as male and female. Christian Scripture teaches that there is but one God who alone is Creator and Lord of all. To him alone, every person owes glad-hearted thanksgiving, heart-felt praise, and total allegiance. This is the path not only of glorifying God, but of knowing ourselves. To forget our Creator is to forget who we are, for he made us for himself. And we cannot know ourselves truly without truly knowing him who made us. We did not make ourselves. We are not our own. Our true identity, as male and female persons, is given by God. It is not only foolish, but hopeless, to try to make ourselves what God did not create us to be.

We believe that God’s design for his creation and his way of salvation serve to bring him the greatest glory and bring us the greatest good. God’s good plan provides us with the greatest freedom. Jesus said he came that we might have life and have it in overflowing measure. He is for us and not against us. Therefore, in the hope of serving Christ’s church and witnessing publicly to the good purposes of God for human sexuality revealed in Christian Scripture, we offer the following affirmations and denials.

Article 1

WE AFFIRM that God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife, and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and his bride the church.

WE DENY that God has designed marriage to be a homosexual, polygamous, or polyamorous relationship. We also deny that marriage is a mere human contract rather than a covenant made before God.

Article 2

WE AFFIRM that God's revealed will for all people is chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage.

WE DENY that any affections, desires, or commitments ever justify sexual intercourse before or outside marriage; nor do they justify any form of sexual immorality.

Article 3

WE AFFIRM that God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in his own image, equal before God as persons, and distinct as male and female.

WE DENY that the divinely ordained differences between male and female render them unequal in dignity or worth.

Article 4

WE AFFIRM that divinely ordained differences between male and female reflect God's original creation design and are meant for human good and human flourishing.

WE DENY that such differences are a result of the Fall or are a tragedy to be overcome.

Article 5

WE AFFIRM that the differences between male and female reproductive structures are integral to God's design for self-conception as male or female.

WE DENY that physical anomalies or psychological conditions nullify the God-appointed link between biological sex and self-conception as male or female.

Article 6

WE AFFIRM that those born with a physical disorder of sex development are created in the image of God and have dignity and worth equal to all other image-bearers. They are acknowledged by our Lord Jesus in his words about "eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb." With all others they are welcome as faithful followers of Jesus Christ and should embrace their biological sex insofar as it may be known.

WE DENY that ambiguities related to a person's biological sex render one incapable of living a fruitful life in joyful obedience to Christ.

Article 7

WE AFFIRM that self-conception as male or female should be defined by God's holy purposes in creation and redemption as revealed in Scripture.

WE DENY that adopting a homosexual or transgender self-conception is consistent with God's holy purposes in creation and redemption.

Article 8

WE AFFIRM that people who experience sexual attraction for the same sex may live a rich and fruitful life pleasing to God through faith in Jesus Christ, as they, like all Christians, walk in purity of life.

WE DENY that sexual attraction for the same sex is part of the natural goodness of God's original creation, or that it puts a person outside the hope of the gospel.

Article 9

WE AFFIRM that sin distorts sexual desires by directing them away from the marriage covenant and toward sexual immorality—a distortion that includes both heterosexual and homosexual immorality.

WE DENY that an enduring pattern of desire for sexual immorality justifies sexually immoral behavior.

Article 10

WE AFFIRM that it is sinful to approve of homosexual immorality or transgenderism and that such approval constitutes an essential departure from Christian faithfulness and witness.

WE DENY that the approval of homosexual immorality or transgenderism is a matter of moral indifference about which otherwise faithful Christians should agree to disagree.

Article 11

WE AFFIRM our duty to speak the truth in love at all times, including when we speak to or about one another as male or female.

WE DENY any obligation to speak in such ways that dishonor God's design of his image-bearers as male and female.

Article 12

WE AFFIRM that the grace of God in Christ gives both merciful pardon and transforming power, and that this pardon and power enable a follower of Jesus to put to death sinful desires and to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.

WE DENY that the grace of God in Christ is insufficient to forgive all sexual sins and to give power for holiness to every believer who feels drawn into sexual sin.

Article 13

WE AFFIRM that the grace of God in Christ enables sinners to forsake transgender self-conceptions and by divine forbearance to accept the God-ordained link between one's biological sex and one's self-conception as male or female.

WE DENY that the grace of God in Christ sanctions self-conceptions that are at odds with God's revealed will.

Article 14

WE AFFIRM that Christ Jesus has come into the world to save sinners and that through Christ's death and resurrection forgiveness of sins and eternal life are available to every person who repents of sin and trusts in Christ alone as Savior, Lord, and supreme treasure.

WE DENY that the Lord's arm is too short to save or that any sinner is beyond his reach.

Scripture References*

Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-24; Ex. 20:14; 20:17; Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Dt. 5:18, 21; 22:5; Jdg. 19:22; 2 Sam. 11:1-12:15; Job 31:1; Ps. 51:1-19; Prov. 5:1-23; 6:20-35; 7:1-27; Isa. 59:1; Mal. 2:14; Matt. 5:27-30; 19:4-6, 8-9, 12; Acts 15:20, 29; Rom. 1:26-27; 1:32; 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 18-20; 7:1-7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 4:15, 20-24; 5:31-32; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; 1 Tim. 1:9-10, 15; 2 Tim. 2:22; Titus 2:11-12; Heb. 13:4; Jas. 1:14-15; 1 Pet. 2:11; Jude 7

** Scripture texts are not a part of the original document but have been added subsequently for reference*

Initial Signatories

Institutional affiliation for identification purposes only

Denny Burk

President, Council on Biblical
Manhood and Womanhood

John Piper

Founder & Teacher, Desiring God
Chancellor, Bethlehem Seminary and
College

James Dobson

Founder, Focus on the Family

Russell Moore

President, Ethics & Religious Liberty
Commission

J. I. Packer

Professor of Theology, Regent College

Wayne Grudem

Research Professor of Theology
and Biblical Studies, Phoenix
Seminary

R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

President, The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Tony Perkins

President, Family Research Council

D. A. Carson

Research Professor of New
Testament, Trinity Evangelical
Divinity School

John MacArthur

Pastor, Grace Community Church
President, The Master's Seminary and
College

Sam Allberry

Speaker & Apologist, Ravi Zacharias
International Ministries

R. C. Sproul

Founder & Chairman, Ligonier
Ministries

Rosaria Butterfield

Author of *The Secret Thoughts of an
Unlikely Convert*

Francis Chan

Author & Pastor, We Are Church

Marvin Olasky

Editor in Chief, World Magazine

Ligon Duncan

Chancellor & CEO, Reformed
Theological Seminary

Steve Gaines

President, The Southern Baptist
Convention
Pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church

Andrew T. Walker

Director of Policy Studies, Ethics
& Religious Liberty Commission

H. B. Charles, Jr.

Pastor, Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist
Church

Christopher Yuan

Speaker & Author, Moody Bible
Institute

Dennis Rainey

Founder & Former President,
FamilyLife

Frank Page

President & CEO, Southern Baptist
Convention Executive Committee
Former SBC President

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Author & Speaker, Revive Our Hearts

Daniel L. Akin

President, Southeastern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Kevin DeYoung

Senior Pastor, Christ Covenant Church

Alistair Begg

Reverend, Parkside Church

Heath Lambert

Executive Director, Association of
Certified Biblical Counselors

Jerry A. Johnson

President & CEO, National Religious
Broadcasters

Mark Dever

Pastor, Capitol Hill Baptist Church

Randy Alcorn

Director, Eternal Perspectives
Ministries

Karen Swallow Prior
Professor of English, Liberty
University

Matt Chandler
Pastor, The Village Church

Fred Luter
Senior Pastor, Franklin Avenue
Baptist Church
Former SBC President

James MacDonald
Founder and Senior Pastor, Harvest
Bible Chapel
Former SBC President

James Merritt
Pastor, Cross Pointe Church
Former SBC President

Jack Graham
Pastor, Prestonwood Baptist
Church

J. D. Greear
Pastor, The Summit Church

Darryl Delhousaye
President, Phoenix Seminary
pte

Thomas White
President, Cedarville University

Bryant Wright
Senior Pastor, Johnson Ferry Baptist
Church
Former SBC President

Don Sweeting
President, Colorado Christian
University

Jeff Purswell
Director of Theology, Sovereign
Grace Churches

Johnny Hunt
Pastor, FBC Woodstock
Former SBC President

Jason K. Allen
President, Midwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Erick-Woods Erickson
Editor in Chief, The Resurgent

Mark L. Bailey
President & Senior Professor of Bible
Exposition, Dallas Theological
Seminary

K. Erik Thoennes
Professor and Chair of Theology,
Talbot School of Theology, Biola
University

Vaughan Roberts
Rector of St. Ebbe's Church,
Oxford, UK

David French
Senior Writer, National Review

Paige Patterson
President, Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary

R. Kent Hughes
Visiting Professor of Practical
Theology, Evangelism and Culture,
Westminster Theological Seminary

Jeff Iorg
President, Gateway Seminary

Sam Storms
Lead Pastor for Preaching and Vision,
Bridgeway Church

Richard Land
President, Southern Evangelical
Seminary

Barbara Rainey
Co-Founder, Family

Robert A. J. Gagnon
Scholar and Author of *The Bible and
Homosexual Practice*

Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver
President, Union University

Ronnie Floyd
Senior Pastor, Cross Church
Former SBC President

C. J. Mahaney
Senior Pastor, Sovereign Grace Church
of Louisville

Jason G. Duesing
Provost, Midwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary & College

Matt Carter
Pastor of Preaching and Vision, The
Austin Stone Church

Chuck Kelley
President, New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary

Burk Parsons
Copastor, St. Andrew's Chapel

Eric Teetsel
President, Family Policy Alliance of
Kansas

Alastair Roberts
Scholar & Author of *Heirs Together: A
Theology of the Sexes*

Kevin Ezell
President, North American Mission
Board

Ray Ortlund
Pastor, Immanuel Church

O. S. Hawkins
President, GuideStone SBC

Thom S. Rainer
President & CEO, LifeWay
Christian Resources

Michael Reeves

President and Professor of Theology,
Union School of Theology, UK

Todd Wagner

Pastor, Watermark Community Church

John M. Frame

Professor Emeritus of Systematic
Theology and Philosophy,
Reformed Theological Seminary

Randy Stinson

Senior VP for Academic
Administration and Provost, The
Southern Baptist Theological
Seminary

Mac Brunson

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of
Jacksonville

Paul Nyquist

President, Moody Bible Institute

Thomas Schreiner

Professor of New Testament
Interpretation, The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary

H. Wayne House

Academic Dean and Distinguished
Research Professor, Faith International
University

J. P. Moreland

Distinguished Professor of
Philosophy, Talbot School of
Theology, Biola University

Miguel Nuñez

Pastor, Iglesia Bautista International,
Dominican Republic

Bruce Ware

Professor of Christian Theology, The
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Michael Goeke

Associate Pastor, FBC San
Francisco

Joel Belz

Founder, World Magazine, World
News Group

Michael Horton

J. Gresham Machen Professor of
Theology and Apologetics,
Westminster Seminary California

Jacie Hill Perry

Speaker, Writer, Humble Beast
Recording Artist

Dick Lucas

Reverend Presbendary, Rector
Emeritus, St. Helen's Bishopgate, UK

Afshin Ziafat

Lead Pastor, Providence Church

Stephen Strang

Founder & CEO, Charisma Media

Christiana Holcomb

Legal Counsel, Alliance Defending
Freedom

Jimmy Draper

President Emeritus, LifeWay
Former SBC President

Stephen J. Wellum

Professor of Christian Theology,
The Southern Baptist Theological
Seminary

Anthony Kidd

Pastor of Preaching, Community of
Faith Bible Church

James M. Hamilton, Jr.

Professor of Biblical Theology, The
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Bryan Carter

Senior Pastor, Concord Church

Owen Strachan

Associate Professor of Christian
Theology, Midwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Chris Larson

President & CEO, Ligonier Ministries

Bruce Riley Ashford

Provost and Professor of Theology
& Culture, Southeastern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Candi Finch

Assistant Professor of Theology in
Women's Studies, Southwestern
Baptist Theological Seminary

Curtis Woods

Associate Executive Director,
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Nathan Finn

Dean, School of Theology and
Missions, Union University

James Robison

Founder & President, LIFE Outreach
International
Founder & Publisher, *The Stream*

C. Ben Mitchell

Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy,
Union University

Darrell Bock

Senior Professor, Dallas
Theological Seminary

William Philip

Senior Minister, The Tron Church,
Glasgow, UK

David Mathis

Executive Editor, *Desiring God*

Ken Magnuson

Professor of Christian Ethics, The
Southern Baptist Theological
Seminary

Daniel Heimbach

Senior Professor of Christian Ethics,
Southeastern Baptist Theological
Seminary

Hershael W. York

Professor of Christian Preaching, The
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Mary Mohler

Director, Seminary Wives Institute

Hunter Baker

Associate Professor, Union University

Dorothy Kelley Patterson

Professor of Theology in Women's
Studies, Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Jim Shaddix

Professor of Expository Preaching,
Southeastern Baptist Theological
Seminary

John N. Oswalt

Visiting Distinguished Professor of
Old Testament, Asbury Theological
Seminary

Jack Deere

Author and Speaker, Grace Church

Juan R. Sanchez

Senior Pastor, High Pointe Baptist
Church

Malcolm B. Yarnell III

Research Professor of Systematic
Theology, Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Jonathan Leeman

Editorial Director, 9Marks

Mary A. Kassian

Author, Director, Girls Gone Wise

Mark Daniel Liederbach

Professor & Vice President,
Southeastern Baptist Theological
Seminary

Matthew J. Hall

Dean of Boyce College & Senior VP of
Academic Innovation, The Southern
Baptist Theological Seminary

Micah Fries

Senior Pastor, Brainerd Baptist
Church

Nathan Lino

Senior Pastor, Northeast Houston
Baptist Church

Paul Weber

President & CEO, Family Policy
Alliance

Bob Lepine

Vice President of Content,
FamilyLife

Andy Naselli

Associate Professor of New Testament
and Theology, Bethlehem College &
Seminary

John Stevens

National Director, Fellowship of
Independent Evangelical Churches

Casey B. Hough

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church
of Camden

Russell Shubin

Director, Salem Media Group

Allan Coppedge

Retired Professor of Theology, Asbury
Theological Seminary

Daniel DeWitt

Director of the Center for Biblical
Apologetics & Public Christianity,
Cedarville University

Charlotte Akin

Homemaker, Southeastern Baptist
Theological Seminary

David Schrock

Pastor for Preaching and Theology,
Occoquan Bible Church

Don Buckley

Physician, Spanish Trail Family
Physicians

E. Calvin Beisner

Founder & National Spokesman,
Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship
of Creation

Donald A. Balasa

Adjunct Faculty, Trinity International
University

Donna Thoennes

Adjunct Professor and homeschool
mom, Biola University

James A. Borland

Professor of New Testament
& Theology, Liberty University

Eric C. Redmond

Assistant Professor of Bible, Moody
Bible Institute

Grant Castleberry

Pastor of Discipleship, Providence
Church

Jose Abella

Lead Pastor, Providence Road Church

Phillip Bethancourt

Executive Vice President, Ethics &
Religious Liberty Commission

Adam W. Greenway

Dean, Billy Graham School of
Missions, Evangelism, & Ministry,
The Southern Baptist Theological
Seminary

Joy White

Homemaker & Assistant Professor of Women's Studies, Cedarville University

Gregory Wills

Dean, School of Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Katie McCoy

Assistant Professor of Theology in Women's Studies, Scarborough College

Rhyne R. Putman

Associate Professor of Theology and Culture, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Barry Joslin

Professor of Christian Theology, Boyce College

Rhonda Kelley

President's Wife, Adjunct Faculty, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Peter Jones

Executive Director, truthXchange

Bryan Baise

Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Apologetics, Boyce College

Kenneth Keathley

Senior Professor of Theology, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Jeff Struecker

Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church

Rebecca Jones

Volunteer, truthXchange

Evan Lenow

Associate Professor of Ethics, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Daniel Patterson

Vice President for Operations and Chief of Staff, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

David Talley

Professor of Old Testament, Biola University

Travis Wussow

VP for Public Policy, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Sean Perron

Chief of Staff, The Association of Certified Biblical Counselors

Michael L. Brown

President, FIRE School of Ministry

Keith Whitfield

Assistant Professor & Dean, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Jeffrey Riley

Professor of Ethics, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Dannah Gresh

Co-founder, Pure Freedom

Matt Damico

Associate Pastor of Worship, Kenwood Baptist Church

Colby Adams

Director of Communications, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Paul Felix

President, Los Angeles Bible Training School

Colin Smothers

Executive Director, Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood