

Policy on Marriage and Human Sexuality

Introduction

This is a policy statement on the religious beliefs of Dayton Christian School System pertaining to marriage and human sexuality and our policies based upon the necessary application of those beliefs to life and practice.

What We Believe About Marriage and Human Sexuality

Summary Affirmations: Human Sexuality and Marriage

We believe that God created two genders, male and female. A person's gender is a good gift to be embraced and celebrated in accord with God's created intention. Only when God's intentions for gender are respected can individuals image God so that they can fully know God and so know the potential of their humanity for their own flourishing and the flourishing of others (Gen 1:26-28). God's redemptive work in Christ by the Spirit is to restore this vision of humanity which has been marred through brokenness and sin (Col 3:9-10).

We believe that God created marriage to be an exclusive, lifelong union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union (Gen 2:24). Jesus asserts that this "one flesh" union is brought about by God himself (Matt 19:4-6). Marriage is a good gift from God to enable the men and women so gifted to experience and reflect their identity as God's image-bearers (1 Cor 7:1-7; 1 Tim 4:3). Marriage, when lived out according to God's design for the nature and roles of the partners involved, bears the additional significance of serving as a living representation of the relationship of Christ to His bride, the church (Eph 5:22-32). Only when God's intentions in creation and redemption are observed can the glory of God be fully declared in and through marriage. To conform to God's intentions for marriage is to create an environment best suited for the flourishing of the couple and their children as well as for preserving an institution essential to the health of the church and society at large.

Explanation and Basis: We believe, based on the teaching of the Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments, that marriage is an institution ordained by God from the foundation of the world, and intended as a lifelong union of one man and one woman. This idea is supported by the account of creation in Genesis chapters 1 and 2. Genesis 1:26-28 provides that God created man in His own image, both male and female. The passage teaches that: 1) Gender is twofold, male and female and is an immutable, "good" gift from God and 2) only when men and women are rightly related according to God's created intention can they fully represent the image of God in their humanity and, thus, best realize God's blessing for men, women, families, and society as a whole.

Genesis chapter 2 provides a more detailed account of how God created the first man, Adam, and decided that it was not good for him to be alone (Genesis 2:18). God indicated that He would make "a suitable helper for him." God brought all of the animals to Adam, but none of them was a suitable helper for him, so God then created Eve, the first woman, from part of Adam himself. God did not create a second man to be Adam's helpmate, or an assortment of multiple women, but rather one woman. Together they were man and wife and had "no shame" or sin in their "one flesh" union with each other (Genesis 2:15-25). Thus, for those who have been gifted by God to express the man/women relationship in the bond of covenantal sexual union, this means that the unity of one man and one woman alone respects God's created design (Genesis 2:24).

Jesus Christ reaffirmed the teaching of the Old Testament on gender and marriage when He said, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matt 19:4-6). Notably, Jesus affirms that God not only created the genders with a view to their union with each other, but God himself effects the marriage union and so warns those who attempt to dissolve that union.

The Apostle Paul states in Ephesians 5:22-32 the "one flesh" union of a man and a woman is not merely a human institution, but is a special divine metaphor that is intended to illustrate the union of Christ and the church. For this reason also, only a union between a man and a woman can be a proper marriage because a union between two men, two women, or one man and multiple women or any collection of people could not properly illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church.

I Corinthians 6:9-11 condemns a variety of lifestyles that stand outside God's created design for sexual intimacy, including those associated with adultery, prostitution, and homosexuality. The Bible condemns all forms of sexual expression outside of a monogamous, heterosexual union and encourages Christians to flee from it because of its offense to God and its destructive effects on the individual and community. To use one's body over against God's created design is: 1) to violate its status as a gift to be stewarded according to God's created design; 2) to unite Christ in acts contrary to God's character and purposes; and 3) to reject its status as an instrument consecrated to God in Christ by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 3:16 & 6:12-20).

Romans 1:18-32 makes it clear that it is not only sinful to engage in homosexual unions, but also to approve of such sins in others or encourage their practice. As a result, in order to maintain our consistent Christian witness, we cannot sanction, approve, or promote in any way adultery, pre-marital sex (a sexual relationship between an unmarried man and woman; i.e. "living together"), pornography, pedophilia, polyamory, polygamy, bestiality, or homosexual unions. This is made clear also by countless other verses throughout the Old Testament as well as by these and other passages in the New Testament.

Dayton Christian School System follows what the Bible reveals is the "sure foundation" of the teachings of Jesus Christ and His apostles (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:42 and I Corinthians 15:1-11). Dayton Christian School System is called to teach and practice these teachings and is not at liberty to depart from them for a different authority if it is to authentically bear the name "Christian." Though we strive to live peaceably with all people and to obey legitimate government authority, in instances involving matters as foundational as marriage we must ultimately obey God rather than man if the two come into conflict (Acts 4:18-22).

Sexual activities outside of marriage, including but not limited to fornication, adultery, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia, polyamory and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible. Lewd conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation, distribution or viewing of pornography are incompatible with God's intention.

Our Faith-Based Policy on Marriage and Human Sexuality

As a result of these above described religious beliefs and our belief in the need for a practice faithful to these beliefs, it is our policy that Dayton Christian School System shall not enroll, nor maintain the

enrollment of, any student who is residing with a parent(s) or other guardian or custodian who are living in an adulterous relationship, homosexual union, a polygamist or polyamorist relationship, or any other sexual relationship which is inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible. It is also the policy of the Dayton Christian School System that no employee may enter into such a relationship and that to do so will constitute grounds for immediate termination of employment. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by Dayton Christian School System only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of marriage found in this Policy Statement.

In addition, though recognizing that due to sin and human brokenness our experience of our sex and gender is not always as God the Creator originally designed, our recognition of our sex as male or female as a gift from God dictates that we cannot support or affirm the resolution of tension between a person's biological sex and experience of gender by the adoption of a psychological identity discordant with that person's birth sex, nor support or affirm attempts to change via medical intervention one's given biological birth sex in favor of the identity of the opposite sex or of an indeterminate identity.

Recognizing that we all struggle with sin, Dayton Christian School System will provide an environment that welcomes people who struggle with sexual sin. We will seek to love all people in Jesus' name, pointing them toward Christ's power to forgive and heal. While the Bible speaks to those who engage in sexual sin, we also recognize that sexual sin is not characterized in Scripture as being more severe than other forms of sin. We will seek God to discern ways that we can directly and indirectly minister and share God's love with those who struggle with every kind of sin. We also recognize that there is a difference between temptation and behavior and while temptation is sometimes unavoidable we are responsible for our behavior.

Dayton Christian School System Practices Derived from This Policy

1. Every employee of Dayton Christian School System shall affirm their agreement with DCSS's statement on marriage and human sexuality and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
2. Every member of the Board of Trustees will be asked to affirm their agreement with this policy on marriage and human sexuality and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
3. Every parent, guardian or other custodian of child(ren) applying for admission or re-enrollment to Dayton Christian School System on behalf of themselves and on behalf of their child(ren) shall affirm their agreement with DCSS's statement on marriage and human sexuality and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.