

Cobblestone

COMMUNITY CHURCH

SEXUAL PURITY STATEMENT

The Cobblestone Statement of Faith affirms “that the Bible, comprising the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God... and is the final authority for faith and life.” As a result of that dependence on the Bible and its teachings, Cobblestone affirms also the following eight beliefs about heterosexuality and homosexuality:

1. We believe that heterosexuality is God's revealed will for humankind and that, since God is loving, a chaste and faithful expression of this orientation (whether in singleness or in marriage) is the ideal to which God calls all people.
2. We believe that heterosexual marriage, as the only form of marriage depicted or approved in God's Word, is normative, healthy, and honorable (Hebrews 13:4), and that all forms of sex other than that between a husband and wife (premarital sex, adultery, homosexual sex, group sex, pedophilia, incest, etc.) constitute sexual immorality.
3. We believe that heterosexual sin and homosexual sin are each a transgression of God's law and his loving standard for human behavior and happiness. And, while both homosexual and heterosexual temptations are a result of humanity's sinful state, such temptations or tendencies in and of themselves do not necessarily constitute sinful behavior; but sin occurs when “evil desires lead to evil actions” (James 1:15).
4. We believe that homosexual tendencies and behaviors are a result of the fall of humanity into a sinful condition that pervades every person. Whatever biological or familial roots of homosexuality may be discovered, we do not believe that these would sanction or excuse homosexual behavior, though they would deepen our compassion and patience for those who are struggling to be free from sexual temptations.
5. We believe that Jesus Christ has the power to deliver from sexual sin, break the power of sexual bondage, and free the individual to know and experience his or her true identity in Christ and in the fellowship of his Church. We believe that this freedom is attained through a process, which includes:

For the heterosexual, recognizing the behavior as sin, renouncing the practice of that behavior, rediscovering healthy, non-erotic friendships with people of the opposite sex, embracing a moral sexual lifestyle, and in the age to come, rising from the dead with a new body free from every sinful impulse. We believe that this freedom comes through faith in Jesus Christ, by the power of his Spirit.

For the homosexual, recognizing homosexual behavior as sin, renouncing the practice of homosexual behavior, rediscovering healthy, non-erotic friendships with people of the same sex, embracing a moral sexual lifestyle, and in the age to come, rising from the dead with a new body free from every sinful impulse. We believe that this freedom also comes through faith in Jesus Christ, by the power of his Spirit.

6. We believe that all persons have been created in the image of God and should be accorded human dignity. We believe therefore that hateful, fearful, unconcerned harassment of persons with homosexual tendencies should be repudiated. We believe that respect for persons with homosexual tendencies involves honest, reasoned, nonviolent sharing of facts concerning the immorality and liability of homosexual behavior. On the other hand, endorsing behavior that the Bible disapproves endangers persons and dishonors God.

7. We believe that Christian churches should reach out in love and truth to minister to people touched by homosexuality, and that those who contend Biblically against their own sexual temptation should be patiently assisted in their battle, not ostracized or disdained.

8. We believe that persons who have been delivered from sexual immorality through the saving and cleansing work of Jesus Christ are new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17); the old has passed away, and the new has come. However, wisdom and prudence dictate that persons who are prone to specific sexual temptations should serve the church in ways that do not place them in temptation's way (Ephesians 4:27; 1 Thessalonians 5:22); therefore appropriate boundaries will be erected to prevent further temptation and any victimization of others in the flock. In addition, the more prominent a leadership role or modeling role a person holds in the church, the higher will be the ongoing expectations for God's ideal of sexual obedience and wholeness. We affirm that both heterosexual and homosexual persons should find help in the church to engage in the Biblical battle against all improper sexual thoughts and behaviors.