

Medora Community Bible Church
Policy and Procedure
Marriage, Family and Human Sexuality

Purpose: To set forth the position of the church on the matters of marriage, family, and human sexuality

I. We affirm that the Bible clearly declares God's expectations for the lifestyle of His redeemed people and reject the notion that Biblical standards for family life and sexual behavior are archaic and irrelevant. The Word of God is eternal and reflects the unchanging character of a holy God, Who created both sexes in His image, each having separate and distinct characteristics and functions in His eternal plan (Deut. 4:2; Psa. 119:89; Matt. 5:17-19; Rom. 15:4; I Cor. 10:6-7; Gen. 1:26-27).

II. We affirm that lifelong, church-recognized, monogamous marriage between one man and one woman reflects God's unalterable standard for the family, which is the most basic social unit. While we recognize that some elements in society have sought to redefine the family, and that social realities militate against this standard, we nonetheless will uphold it in practice and in public ministry (Gen. 2:24-25; Prov. 12:2, 18:22; I Tim. 3:2, 12; Eph. 5:22-33).

III. We affirm that human sexuality is a good gift from God, and that sexual intimacy is intended by the Creator to be expressed and enjoyed without shame by a man and a woman in the context of the marriage relationship (Gen. 2:25; Prov. 5:15-20; S. Sol.; I Cor. 7:1-9; Heb. 13:4).

IV. We affirm that celibate singleness is an honorable state in keeping with God's will for some people (I Cor. 7:1, 2, 7-9, 32; I Tim. 5:3-16).

V. We deny that sexual activity outside the marriage relationship is necessary for the full development of human personhood. The Bible clearly defines any such activity as sin (Deut. 22:13-30; Prov. 7:6-27; Rom. 7:1-3; I Cor. 5:1-5, 6:18-20; Heb. 13:4). While the Scriptures are more explicit regarding sexual acts between people, we understand it is possible to commit sexual sin in the mind (Matt. 5:27-28) and to misuse sexuality in marriage (I Cor. 7:1-5).

VI. We deny that same-sex relationships constitute Biblical marriage (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:3-9; Rom. 1: 18-32). We further deny that homosexuality, lesbianism, incest, pedophilia, bestiality, adultery, fornication, pre-marital sex, or pornography are in any way pleasing to God or consistent with His original design for the family (Ex. 20:14, 17; Lev. 18; Matt. 5:27-30; Rom. 1:26-27; I Cor. 5:1-2, 9-13; I Cor. 6:9-10, 13-20; I Cor. 7:3-5, 7-9; Eph. 5:3-5; I Thess. 4:1-8). While we recognize that the factors that contribute to such sinful practices may be many and complex, we affirm that the above are behaviors—not diseases or congenital conditions—resulting from conscious choices (James 1:13-16). Like any other forms of sin, they can be forgiven and repudiated, though their consequences may be lifelong and far-reaching (Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 2:1-10; I John 1:8-10).

VII. We affirm that these lifestyle guidelines are firmly rooted in Scripture, and, therefore, constitute the will of God. We further affirm that these guidelines shall serve as a basis for pastoral care and church discipline in Medora Community Bible Church. We recognize that we, too, are sinners saved solely by the grace of God, and we, therefore, seek to exercise understanding and compassion in our ministry to those whose lives may be dominated by sexual sin. We deny that the use of these guidelines is motivated by anything other than a reverent fear of the Almighty God our Creator, Redeemer, and Judge, and our sincere desire to obey His commandments revealed in the Holy Bible.