

## **“So, What Do YOU Believe about...Marriage and Gender?”** with Pastor Max Frazier

### **INTRODUCTION**

June 26, 2015 – Supreme Court ruling in the case of “Obergefell v. Hodges”

Redefined marriage to “a committed relationship between two people who are in love.”

Rise of “gender dysphoria” or “gender confusion.”

What is happening within the Evangelical Covenant Church.

### **STATEMENT #1 - AN AFFIRMATION OF GENDER**

*We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of a significant part of the image of God within that person.*

The significance is found in the very beginning. (Genesis 1:26-28)

God created men and women!

Throughout the rest of Scripture, the story is told of God’s relationships with men and women.

God is a God of purpose and order.

We do understand that some individuals struggle with their sexual identity. We are to come alongside them and help to discover their identity in Jesus Christ.

### **STATEMENT #2 - AN AFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE**

*We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:16, 1 Corinthians 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman.*

Again, we go back to the very beginning.

Adam is alone. (Genesis 2:18)

God creates a helpmeet for him.

Genesis 2:24 – the first statement in the Bible about marriage.

What did Jesus say about marriage?

*Matthew 19:4-6*

Principles do not change because culture changes.

The principle of marriage between one man and one woman is not a cultural phenomenon. It is from God Himself.

We will not affirm a same-sex marriage.

We believe so strongly in the sanctity of marriage, that we encourage premarital counseling before that wedding day.

*Ecclesiastes 4:12*

### **STATEMENT #3 - AN AFFIRMATION OF SEXUAL FAITHFULNESS**

*We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, sexual abuse, rape and the use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)*

We are living in a culture where sexual perversions are not only accepted but encouraged.

We consider every form of sexual immorality to be a sin before a holy and righteous God. (1 Corinthians 6:15-17)

It is vitally important that I understand that my body belongs to God.

### **STATEMENT #4 - AN AFFIRMATION OF EXAMPLE**

*We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Buffalo Covenant Church as representatives of the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical example to the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Buffalo Covenant Church, or who serve as volunteers, agree to abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).*

### **STATEMENT #5 - AN AFFIRMATION OF REDEMPTION**

*We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)*

We believe that God can change a person's life.

We believe there is no type of sexual or immoral behavior God cannot forgive.

*1 Corinthians 6:9-11*

When a person has an encounter with the risen Jesus Christ, his life will never be the same again.

### **STATEMENT #6 - AN AFFIRMATION OF RESPECT**

*We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture or the doctrine of Buffalo Covenant Church.*

BCC practices an "open door" policy – everyone is invited to come and to hear God's truth.

We are all sinners, saved by grace.

God's truth has the power to set a person free.

### **STATEMENT #7 - AN AFFIRMATION OF HISTORY**

*We affirm the 1996 Statement on Human Sexuality that was adopted by the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Furthermore, Buffalo Covenant Church encourages the leadership within the Evangelical Covenant Church to respect the intent of that Statement and to enforce it among member pastors and churches.*

### **A CHALLENGE**

We have now completed the series on the Statement of Faith.

These statements are foundational for everything we proclaim here at BCC.

Martin Luther, in 1521 before the Council of Worms, said: "Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; God help me! Amen!"

