

# STATEMENT OF RELIGIOUS CONVICTION REGARDING HOMOSEXUALITY

## I: The Source of Our Convictions

Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church confesses, along with all the churches of the Presbyterian Church in America and all true churches of Christ throughout the ages, that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments alone are the perfect source by which we know what man is to believe concerning God and what duty God requires of man. God's Word alone is the basis for morality.

## II. The Teaching of the Bible Concerning Homosexuality

In our day homosexual behavior is increasingly accepted among people from all parts of society. Homosexuality is portrayed by many in leadership roles, in public education and in our colleges and universities as just one of many normal, legitimate lifestyle choices. Several denominations and congregations accept practicing homosexuals as members and even as officers in the church. Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church therefore believes it is necessary to state clearly to our society what Scripture says about homosexuality.

In Scripture we are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves, and therefore no one should engage in slander, hatred, or violence against homosexuals. We protect the safety of all men, because all men are created in the image of God. The way we treat other people should not be driven by the ideas of society, but should be determined by God's commandments in Scripture. Therefore we love homosexuals and are Biblically honest with them. In the Old Testament we learn in the creation ordinance that God created one man and one woman (Genesis 1:27, 28<sup>[1]</sup>). Both man and woman were created in God's image. The union of Adam and Eve was God's perfect design for marriage and sexual expression. God proclaims the sanctity and intimacy of marriage by saying that a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife. They shall become one flesh. God chose to create a woman and not a man, to be a helper and a companion to Adam. To them He gave the command to be fruitful and fill the earth. Jesus Christ shows us that this text applies today by quoting Genesis 2:24<sup>[2]</sup> as proof to the people of his day that polygamy and divorce (except in the case of adultery) are condemned by God (Matthew 19:5<sup>[3]</sup>).

The Old Testament is clear in its teaching on homosexuality by condemning it as a perversion of the sexual gift God gave to husband and wife. God describes homosexuality as an abomination and says that under the Old Testament Law it is a capital offense – worthy of the death penalty (Leviticus 18:22<sup>[4]</sup>, 20:13<sup>[5]</sup>). Two cities, Sodom and Gomorra, were completely demolished because their citizens gave themselves over to homosexuality and other grievous sins (Genesis 19:4-18<sup>[6]</sup>).

In the New Testament we see that Jesus Christ said that He came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17-19<sup>[7]</sup>). He proves this constantly in His teachings by authoritatively interpreting the Mosaic Law. Jesus taught that the Moral Law is still valid in our day and so the Moral Laws about homosexuality in the Old Testament are still applicable today. For example, in Matthew 5 Jesus said that everyone who looks lustfully at a woman is already guilty of adultery. Jesus did not abolish the Moral Law, He strengthened it. (Click here to read Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church's position paper on "The Use of the Moral Law for our Society").

The New Testament condemns homosexuality in the same way as the Old Testament does (Romans 1:24-32<sup>[8]</sup>; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10<sup>[9]</sup>; 1 Timothy 1:10<sup>[10]</sup>). In Romans 1:24-32 God speaks through His apostle Paul, saying that immorality can be traced back to exchanging God's truth for falsehood and worshipping the creature rather than the Creator. In this text God condemns homosexual behavior and points us back to the creation ordinance in which He established the marriage relationship as being between one man and one woman (Genesis 1:27, 28<sup>[1]</sup>; Genesis 2:24<sup>[2]</sup>). God states in this passage that those who are doing these things are worthy of death (Romans 1:32<sup>[8]</sup>).

Our liberal society, which tries to justify homosexuality with all kinds of rationalizations, is reminded by God in 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10<sup>[9]</sup> that we should not deceive ourselves. God declares that, among other sins, no sexually immoral person or homosexual shall inherit the kingdom of God (heaven). God judges the unrepentant homosexual with eternal death. Many homosexuals claim that they are born homosexual with homosexual thoughts and desires, and therefore their lifestyle should not be condemned. Scripture teaches us that all men are born with a sinful nature and disposition. The first man, Adam, was the representative of the whole human race before God. When Adam sinned, the pollution of sin passed to the whole human race (Rom. 5:12, 17, 19<sup>[13]</sup>). Every person (except Jesus Christ who was conceived by the Holy Spirit) is born with a sinful nature. God did not create a person with sinful desires; he received it from his representative, Adam. This includes the sin of homosexuality.

This is not an excuse for anyone to sin. God says (Psalm 58:3<sup>[14]</sup>; Psalm 51:5<sup>[15]</sup>) that all men are born liars, yet they are not allowed to lie (Exodus 20:16<sup>[16]</sup>). God even declares that a liar will not enter heaven (Revelation 21:27<sup>[17]</sup>). All men are responsible for their sins before God. Even if our society does not acknowledge the sin of homosexuality today, the unrepentant homosexual will be judged by God on the last day and cast into hell (1 Corinthians 6:9-10<sup>[9]</sup>).

Scripture is very clear in condemning homosexual behavior. God says it is an abomination to Him. Churches, denominations and people who claim to be sympathetic toward homosexuals by approving their perverse behavior are liars and false teachers. By reinterpreting the Bible and perverting God's Word, they are leading homosexuals down the path of destruction. These false teachers are the true enemies of the homosexual community.

### III. Conclusion

The only hope for the homosexual is to accept what God is saying about this lifestyle. The great hope all sinners have (including homosexuals) is that when they repent of their sins and they are convinced that their behavior is wrong, God is gracious and grants forgiveness. Just after we read in 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10<sup>[9]</sup> that no unrepentant homosexual will enter heaven, we read in verse 11, "And such were some of you, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus

Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.” Some in the Corinthian congregation may have been homosexuals, but they repented and started living a Christian life.

Christ, who was sinless, died for those who repent of their sins and put their full trust in Him for their salvation. Believe in Christ, for He is the only source for salvation (Acts 4:12<sup>[18]</sup>). When Christians appear before God on the Judgment Day, they will be clothed with Christ’s perfect righteousness. Christians go to heaven after their death only because of the merits of Jesus Christ. “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

## Scripture References

[1] **Genesis 1:27, 28**—God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

[2] **Genesis 2:24**—For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

[3] **Matthew 19:5**—For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

[4] **Leviticus 18:22**—You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

[5] **Leviticus 20:13**—If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their blood guiltiness is upon them.

[6] **Genesis 19:4-18**—<sup>4</sup>Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; <sup>5</sup>and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.” <sup>6</sup>But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him, <sup>7</sup>and said, “Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly. <sup>8</sup>“Now behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof.” <sup>9</sup>But they said, “Stand aside.” Furthermore, they said, “This one came in as an alien, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them.” So they pressed hard against Lot and came near to break the door. <sup>10</sup>But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. <sup>11</sup>They struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves trying to find the doorway.

<sup>12</sup>Then the two men said to Lot, “Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring them out of the place; <sup>13</sup>for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the LORD that the LORD has sent us to destroy it.” <sup>14</sup>Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, “Up, get out of this place, for the LORD will destroy the city.” But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

<sup>15</sup> When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city.” <sup>16</sup> But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the LORD was upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city. <sup>17</sup> When they had brought them outside, one said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away.” <sup>18</sup> But Lot said to them, “Oh no, my lords!”

[7] **Matthew 5:17-19**—<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> “Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

[8] **Romans 1:24-32**—<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. <sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, <sup>27</sup> and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. <sup>28</sup> And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

[9] **1 Corinthians 6:9, 10**—<sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

[10] **1 Timothy 1:10**—...and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching...

[13] **Romans 5:12, 17, 19**—<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...<sup>17</sup> For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.... <sup>19</sup> For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

[14] **Psalms 58:3**—The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from birth.

[15] **Psalms 51:1**—Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity; And in sin did my mother conceive me.

[16] **Exodus 20:16**—Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

[17] **Revelation 21:27**—...and there shall in no wise enter into it anything unclean, or he that maketh an abomination and a lie: but only they that are written in the Lamb's book of life.

[18] **Acts 4:12**—And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved.