

## **Various Statements**

### **Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct**

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Kent Bible Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our board of elders is Kent Bible Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

### **Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Because every human bears God's image, human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death or death by God-ordained penalty (Romans 13). We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps 139).

### **Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality**

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. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

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. (Gen 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 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, self-gratification, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Kent Bible Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Kent Bible Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Kent Bible Church in any capacity, its members, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

Because God has given each person their biological sex, we will use our church facilities (property, rented facilities and all other ministry locations) in accordance with His gender design. This means that all persons using our gender-based accommodations (e.g. restrooms) must do so according to their biological sex.

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, Kent Bible Church will only recognize marriages between a biological

man and a biological woman. Further, the elders, pastors and staff of Kent Bible Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, because the blessing of a marriage is a worship service to the Lord, the facilities and property of Kent Bible Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

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; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

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 nor the doctrines of Kent Bible Church.