

Biblical References for God's design in Creation and same sex acts and relationships

These Scripture references are for your consideration and prayer focus as you seek to understand how God is inviting Faith Community Church to move forward in life and ministry for the greatest harvest for God's Kingdom.

These Scriptural references are directly from the Grace and Truth Overture, but are very helpful and were carefully assembled for prayerful consideration.

We believe whole-heartedly that the Lord deeply and passionately loves those who are same sex-attracted and/or identify as LGBTQ (John 3:16).

While we were yet sinners (heterosexual and homosexual), Christ gave himself for us and, in love, invites us to new life – kingdom life (Romans 5:6).

The Lord invites – no, he actually woos – LGBTQ people to seek him. He promises that all (homosexual or heterosexual) will find him if we seek him with all our hearts (Jeremiah 29:13).

The Lord entreats his Church to be a community of invitation and kindness (Colossians 3:1) to all peoples regardless of sex, color or orientation not a place of condemnation (Romans 8:1). The statement “God hates gays” is a gross, unbiblical falsehood and contrary to the heart of God.

We believe that the Lord created us in His image (imago Dei) and in that image we were created male and female (Genesis 1:27). From this creation design the Lord instituted Christian marriage between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5).

This created order is affirmed throughout scripture. (Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26-27, Ephesians 5:31-32).

Deviation from his created order, i.e. sexual activity outside the context of heterosexual marriage, is considered sin (Matthew 15:19, 1 Corinthian 6:9, 1 Timothy 1:10, Romans 1:26-27).

In the story of God (Creation—Fall—Redemption—Restoration) homosexuality is located in the Fall (Romans 1:18-32) and therefore is something to be redeemed.

Questions to be considered and answered:

Leadership: If leadership within the church is called to a higher standard (1 Timothy 3:1- 13; Titus 1:5-9) and homosexuality is clearly identified as sin (Romans 1:26-27, 1 Timothy 1:10) can we ordain any leaders in same-sex relationships into the identified roles of pastor, elder or deacon? What of other leadership roles within the churches and institutions, such as small group leaders, worship leaders, ministry leaders, teachers, etc.?

Service: Can those in same-sex relationships serve the church in non-leadership roles?

Sacraments: Do we open the “means of grace” (communion and baptism) to people in same-sex relationships?

Membership: With no biblical category of “local church membership”, do we open membership to those in same-sex relationships?

Marriage: Do we open the Christian marriage covenant in and through the Church to same sex couples?

Or do we affirm God's created order that the Christian marriage covenant is between a man and a woman only? Therefore we will not support the performance of a Christian marriage ceremony/covenant of same sex couples in and through Faith Community Church.