

The Nashville Statement (8/29/17): <https://cbmw.org/nashville-statement/>

## *I. Marriage*

### A. Traditional Marriage

Sherif Gergis, Ryan T. Anderson and Robert P. George, *What Is Marriage?* (Encounter Books, 2012)

1. Definition: **conjugal covenant**. Marriage is a permanent and exclusive union of one man and one woman in both mind and body for the purpose of sharing life, producing and socializing children, and so contributing to the common good.

a. Conjugal: Genesis 4:1-2; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5.

b. Covenant: Ezekiel 16:8; Proverbs 2:17; Malachi 2:14.

c. Exclusive (one man and one woman): Genesis 2:20-25; 4:19-24; Deuteronomy 17:17; 1 Timothy 3:2, 12; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Matthew 22:23-28.

d. Productive union of love (Genesis 1:27)

2. Marriage is easily distinguished from passionate friendships of the same gender.

3. Both the church and the state have a vital interest in regulating marriage.

### B. Revisionist Marriage

1. Definition: **emotional contract**. Marriage is an agreement by two (or more?) people to live together as long as each feels romantically attracted to the other.

2. The goal of marriage is personal fulfillment.

3. Children are not required, and may hinder each partner's quest for fulfillment.

4. This new notion of marriage hardly seems worth protecting, or regulating.

## **II. Sex, Gender, and Sexual Orientation**

A. Sex: *biological, physiological fact, as determined by anatomy, chromosomes, and hormones*. Male and female. Some add intersex (ambiguous genitalia). **Genitals.**

B. Gender: *the psychological, social, and cultural aspects of being male or female*.

C. Gender identity: *how we identify (or not) with our biological sex. How we perceive our true sex and its roles. How masculine or feminine we feel*. Facebook lists 51 genders, including male, female, transgender, transsexual, bigender, androgynous, gender fluid, gender questioning, and intersex. **Head.**

D. Sexual orientation: *what we are sexually attracted to*. Straight (Cis), homosexual, bisexual, pansexual... **Heart.**

1. Freud invents the category of sexual orientation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

2. **Sexual Practice** became **Orientation** became **My Identity** (even in non-sexual areas) became **The Most Important Part of Who I Am** became **Self Authenticating** (right because I have it).

3. Sexual orientation replaces the image of God as our defining essence (don't say "I am a gay Christian" but "I am living in chastity with unwanted homosexual desires") and makes heterosexuals feel smugly superior to homosexuals.

## **III. Homosexuality**

Robert Gagnon, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice* (Abingdon Press, 2002)

Adam Barr and Ron Citlau, *Compassion Without Compromise* (Bethany House, 2014)

Kevin DeYoung, *What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality?* (Crossway, 2015)

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert* (Crown & Covenant, 2012) and *Openness Unhindered: Further Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert On Sexual Identity and Union with Christ* (Crown & Covenant, 2015)

Leviticus 18:22; 20:13 (LXX—do not lie in a *koitēn* with an *arsenos*)

1 Corinthians 6:9 (*arsenokoitai* and *malakoi*). Cf. Revelation 22:14-15

Romans 1:26-27 (homosexual relations are unnatural); 1:32 (God will judge those who approve)

Matt. 19:4-6 (Jesus addressed gender & marriage);

Matt. 15:19 (Jesus addressed homosexual practice—*porneia*)

#### ***IV. Gender Dysphoria***

A. Frameworks for addressing gender dysphoria (varying levels of distress that one's gender identity does not match one's biological sex). See Mark Yarhouse, *Understanding Gender Dysphoria* (IVP, 2015). Yarhouse advocates integrating all three.

1. **Integrity:** preferred lens for *conservative evangelicals*. We must preserve the sacred integrity of male and female.

*Strength:* preserves foundational truth that is being challenged today.

*Weakness:* may not communicate love to those struggling with gender issues and may unwisely promote gender stereotypes that make them feel worse.

2. **Disability:** preferred lens for *mental health professionals*. Gender dysphoria is a non-moral consequence of living in a fallen world. People do not choose gender dysphoria.

*Strength:* remembers that those struggling with gender issues are real people and encourages empathy and compassion for them.

*Weakness:* may be slow to confront sin and may tolerate corrective measures that seem to violate God's created order.

3. **Diversity:** preferred by *our inclusive culture*. We must celebrate, honor, and revere transgender identity and culture as an expression of diversity. Strong form: deconstructs gender and sex. Weak form: transgender people find an identity and a community to belong to.

*Strength* (of the weak form only): helps us understand the needs and desires of gender dysphoric people.

*Weakness:* may disregard biblical absolutes.

B. How best to compassionately help those with gender dysphoria? Between .002-.003% of females and .005-.014% of males suffer from dysphoria. Transgenderism is more common, affecting .3-.5% of population (Yarhouse, p. 92).

1. Discern the reason: gender misassigned at birth, chromosomes or hormones don't match the body, or merely feel like you are the other gender?
2. Emphasize the importance of the body. The soul and body are a unified whole.
3. Choose the least invasive or radical route. Cross-dressing intermittently → Cross-dressing role → Hormone replacement → Gender reassignment surgery.

### ***V. Ethical and Pastoral Issues***

A. Homosociality, Homosexuality, and Homosexual Practice: which is sin?

B. Should a gay couple with children get a divorce? Should a transsexual woman who married a man change back to a man after he gives his life to Christ?

C. Should a Christian attend or serve as a photographer, florist, or baker for a gay wedding?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
It's loving	It's unloving to celebrate a violation of a creational norm
Jesus would	Jesus never materially participated in evil
It enables evangelism	We can't share salvation if we ignore sin
It's only a job	Your job is a divine calling (Col. 3:17, 23-24)

Bottom line: Is gay marriage evil or not?

D. How to provide church bathrooms that allow everyone to feel respected and safe?

E. How can we show that God's view of marriage, sex, and gender is loving, beautiful, and best for each person?