

Marriage, Sexuality & Gender at Calvin Christian School

Calvin Christian School's ("CCS") administration, staff, members and students are a multi-denominational Christian community rooted in the historic Reformed tradition that strives to treat all people with grace, respect, justice, and understanding in the Spirit of Christ. We desire conversation characterised by courage, humility, prayerfulness, and convicted civility, and free from fear, hate, harassment, and discrimination. In accordance with Scripture, we strive first to love God which then enables us to rightly love our neighbour. We are committed to gospel faithfulness as we engage with our culture without conforming to it. We seek to discern that which is creational and, therefore, good. Our Reformed tradition recognizes the deeply distorting effects of sin, the merciful and gracious restoring power of Christ, and the call to service in God's kingdom.

As members of CCS, we are part of a Reformed Christian educational community based on Scripture and the Reformed Confessions, teachings and traditions. In dealing with sexual sins outside of biblical marriage, we must be attentive to Scripture and therefore consistent in applying school employment, admission, and community behavioural standards policies to all expressions of sexual identity and behaviour. Our goal is to clearly articulate the school's biblical position found in our policies that administration, staff, faculty, and membership have signed and committed to abide by and uphold. We are unified by our faith in Christ and our commitment to the vision and mission of this school, as we educate and care well for our children.

God has spoken and revealed Himself in the inerrant and infallible Word, the Holy Bible, not produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as the Holy Spirit carried them along.¹ God's Word saves us in Christ Jesus and is authoritative in the life of the believer, being useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness to complete and equip us for His kingdom work.²

God, in His love and grace, calls us to holiness and obedience in every aspect of our lives, including our sexuality. While due to human sin and brokenness, our experience of our sexuality and gender is not always that which God the Creator originally designed, we yet affirm God's capacity to heal and transform our brokenness. The pinnacle of God's good creation was humankind, lovingly made in His image and likeness, male and female, to enjoy covenantal fellowship with Him and to rule over His world in loving and obedient service.³

We believe we have been bought by the costly blood of Jesus Christ, humbly shed on the cross for our shame and sin; we belong to Him.⁴ We are to glorify God, our Heavenly Father, in our bodies.⁵ We believe our identity is in Christ alone, not gender, race, sexual orientation, family

¹ 2 Pet. 1:21

² 2 Tim. 3:15-17

³ Gen. 1 and 2

⁴ 1 Cor. 6:19

⁵ 1 Cor. 6:20

status, or vocation.⁶ We believe that people who experience sexual attraction for the same sex or struggle with gender dysphoria can live a rich and fruitful life pleasing to God through faith in Jesus Christ, as they, like all Christians, walk in purity of life.

- God designed marriage to be an exclusive union of body, mind, and soul between one man and one woman. Biblical marriage is a holy and binding covenant that reflects the forever relationship between Christ and his church. Our physicality, male and female, and our sexuality are good gifts of God's creation.⁷
- Pre-marital, extra-marital, and homosexual practice distorts God's design of one man and one woman in a covenantal marriage. The Bible prohibits sexual relationships outside the confines of a biblical marriage between one man and one woman as it distorts the Gospel and God's creational design.⁸
- In light of a foundational understanding of creation, fall, and redemption, we do not affirm the resolution of tension between one's biological sex and one's experience of gender by the adoption of a gender identity or expression discordant with one's birth sex. We are called to accept our created biological/genetic sex.⁹
- Pornography is adultery and goes against God's design for sexuality and demeans image bearers of God.¹⁰

We believe we all struggle with sin, we all can repent and turn towards our loving God who receives us with open arms, and we all can find forgiveness, grace, and the power to be freed from sin's enslavement.¹¹ Our deep hope is that our whole community will experience the loving embrace of Jesus Christ and the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in our lives as He sanctifies and renews us. We long to see all of us find our place in God's kingdom so we can flourish in all aspects of life.

⁶ 2 Cor. 5:17

⁷ Gen. 2:18-25

⁸ Heb. 13:4

⁹ Gen. 1:27, 5:2; Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6

¹⁰ Matt. 5:27-28; 1 Thess. 4:3; Ps. 101:3

¹¹ Rom. 6:1-14; 1 Cor. 10:13