



CTEN USA and CTEN Canada Board Clarifications on Identity, Sexuality, and Marriage

CTEN's Statement of Faith declares that the Bible is the "all-sufficient, final authority in all matters of faith and conduct." We feel it is important to declare what we understand to be clear and consistent Biblical teachings on matters of identity, sexuality, and marriage.

- a. We affirm that all persons are created in the image of God, possess inherent worth, and therefore should be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion.
- b. We affirm that God created men and women distinct from animals and biologically gendered as male or female and that birth gender is an unchangeable gift of God that constitutes personal identity, and which should be embraced.
Genesis 1:27-28; 2:19-24
- c. We affirm that the consistent Biblical standard for sexual experience is chastity for those outside a monogamous heterosexual marriage and spousal faithfulness for those inside such a marriage.
Matthew 19; 1 Corinthians 7
- d. We affirm that illicit heterosexual behavior, as well as homosexual behavior, is immoral and comes under the judgment of God; and that all sin can be repented of, turned from, and forgiven.
Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 John 1:9
- e. We affirm that temptation to sinful behavior is universal, and that temptation itself is not sin. However, temptation is to be resisted and overcome, not accommodated or accepted.
Hebrews 4:14-16; Matthew 5:27-28
- f. Because of the universal pull of temptation, we realize that no missionaries sent by CTEN are living perfected lives. But we expect that all should be striving daily to obey the Scriptures which command us to "say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives..."
Titus 2:12; Romans 6:1-14
- g. If anyone is not committed to resisting sexual temptation, refraining from sexual immorality, and transforming their behavior to bring it continually more in line with the light of biblical teachings then it is clear that such a person does not view the Bible as the "final authority in all matters of... conduct". Such a person would not be in agreement with our statement of faith and we would not be in agreement with sending them as a representative of Commission To Every Nation.