



## **MARYVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

### **Biblical Lifestyle 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. (Genesis 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance based on the above truth.

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. (Genesis 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 Corinthians 6:18, 1 Corinthians 7:2-5, Hebrews 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 the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman, and we do not recognize other marriages or unions as legitimate even if they are recognized by local, state, or national governments. (Genesis 2:24, Romans 7:2, 1 Corinthians 7:10, Ephesians 5:22-23)

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

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Maryville Christian School as a Christian organization, it is imperative that all persons affiliated with MCS in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matthew 5:16, Philippians 2:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 5:22)

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, Romans 10:9-10, 1 Corinthians 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 and practices of our institution.

#### **Final Authority in Matters of Belief and Conduct Statement**

The school's Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, is the sole and final source of all that we believe and speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind. For purposes of MCS's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our school Board, with input from the Head of School, is MCS's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

### **Sanctity of Human Life Statement**

Since we believe all human life is sacred and created by God in His 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. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Genesis 1:26; Psalm 139)

### **Marriage Policy Statement**

God has ordained marriage and defines it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself; therefore, MCS will only recognize marriages between a man and a woman at the chromosomal level. Further, the Board, Head of School and staff of MCS shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman at a chromosomal level. Finally, the facilities and property of MCS shall only host weddings between one man and one woman at a chromosomal level.