



BIBLICAL LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

Maryville Christian School (MCS) believes God creates every person in His image. Human sexuality reflects that image in terms of fulfillment through intimate love, communication, fellowship, subordination of the self to a greater good. God's Word makes use of the marriage relationship as the supreme metaphor for His relationship with His covenant people and for revealing that truth is this relationship, one God with one people. Therefore, a monogamous lifelong relationship between one man and one woman expresses God's plan for human sexuality within the framework of Biblical marriage. This divinely designed relationship provides for the birth and rearing of children and creates a union made in the sight of God, taking priority over every other human relationship. (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:18, 20, 23-24; Isa. 54:4-8; 62:5b; Jer. 3:14; Ezek. 16; Hosea 2; Mal. 2:14; Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:9; John 2:1-2, 11; 1 Cor. 9:5; Eph. 5:23-32; 1 Tim.5:14; Heb. 13:4; and Rev. 19:7-8.)

Maryville Christian School is a religious, non-profit Christian school representing Jesus Christ assisting parents in nurturing their children, spiritually, academically, physically, and socially, to become His disciples. The Biblical and philosophical goal of MCS is to work with families who desire themselves and their children to develop into mature, Christ-like individuals who will exhibit a Christ-like life. This endeavor involves the school's understanding and belief in what qualities exemplify moral and sexual purity based on its interpretation of Scripture.

MCS believes in order to follow the Scriptural teaching concerning marriage, we must affirm the immorality and sinfulness of sexual relationships outside of Biblical marriage and of sexual relationships between persons of the same sex. MCS abhors ignoring God's laws of chastity and purity, and opposes public acceptance of sexual promiscuity and all factors and practices that promote it. The school maintains a Biblical view of human sexuality that makes the sexual experience, within the framework of marriage, a gift of God enjoyed as communion of a man and woman, as well as for the purpose of procreation. Sexual relationships outside of marriage and sexual relationships between persons of the same sex are immoral and sinful. While MCS recognizes the depth of the sinfulness of homosexual practice, we believe in the sufficiency of God's grace in overcoming both the practice of such activity and the perversion leading to its practice. (Ex. 20:14, 17; 22:19; Lev. 20:10-16; Matt. 5:32; 19:19; Mark 10:11-12; and Luke 16:18.)

Gender differentiation and male/female uniqueness are part of a divine design that God indelibly engraved upon creation. God gives our bodies to us for spiritual and relational purposes, as well as physical ones. He desires the most fundamental distinctions we experience as human beings as a reminder that our completeness ultimately resides in communion primarily with Himself followed by communion with others. For this reason, "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him'" (Genesis 2:18). Personal fulfillment involves intimate fellowship and union with God, as exemplified by the ideal of Christ as the bridegroom and the Church as His bride (Ephesians 5:22-32 and Revelation 19:7-9). Based on our Biblical and theological study, we find no argument for a "third gender" among humans. Gender confusion and dysphoria are ultimately the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual consequences of the human race's fallen condition. This state of depravity affects all persons individually and collectively. While society is at liberty to legitimize any behavior it chooses simply by reclassifying and renaming it, Christ-followers adhere to Biblical boundaries. It is our Christian conviction that renaming them cannot normalize sin and its expressions. We call upon Biblical Christians to continue to accept their role as witnesses who speak prophetically about the need for repentance and sanctification in every cultural setting.

MCS stands firmly upon Biblical truth claims and moral foundations of Christianity. This includes, the Biblical definition of marriage, the attendant boundaries of sexuality and moral conduct, and the clear Biblical teaching that gender is both sacred and established by God's design. By enrolling their children in MCS, parents or the legal guardians are agreeing to support these and other basic Biblical values derived from a historic, evangelical Christian perspective. Parents understand and agree that MCS will teach these principles and Biblical values.

In addition, the Board urges parents to recognize their scriptural responsibility (validated by Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Psalm 78:5, 6, and Proverbs 22:6) to provide their children with a Christian education and to understand that the primary responsibility for this task rests with the parents (Ephesians 6:4). MCS was founded and continues to operate upon Biblical values and the desire and commitment for Bible-believing Christian parents to enroll their children in an intentionally Christian environment. MCS will only accept students who are willing to support the school's philosophy of Christian education, student conduct codes, and the school's stated positions and whose parents are willing to allow their children to be educated in and influenced by an intentional Christian environment. Continued enrollment at MCS is contingent upon this same understanding and continued support by both the student(s) and parents.

As a religious institution providing an education in a distinct Christian environment, MCS believes its Biblical role is to work in conjunction with the home to mold students to be Christ-like. On occasions in which the atmosphere or conduct within a particular home or the activities of the student are counter to or in opposition to the Biblical lifestyle the school teaches, the school reserves the right, within its sole discretion, to refuse admission of an applicant or discontinue enrollment of a current student. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, living, practicing, condoning, or supporting sexual immorality; including but not limited to, sex outside of marriage, homosexual acts, bi-sexual acts, gender identity different than the chromosomal level at birth, and promoting such practices; or otherwise not supporting the moral principles of the school (Leviticus 20:13a, Romans 1:27, Matthew 19:4-6).

MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STATEMENT

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 (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union (Gen 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 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe God commands humankind to have no intimate sexual activity between a man and a woman outside of a marriage. 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 (Matt. 15:18-20 and 1 Cor. 6:9-10). We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of MCS as Christian ministry, and to provide a Biblical role model to the MCS families, it is imperative that all persons employed by MCS in any capacity, that serve as Board members, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (validated by: Matt. 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22). However, 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; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31 and

Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be renounced and are not in accord with Scripture (Galatians 6:9-10; Ephesians 4:14-16).

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 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; Psalms 139).

MARRIAGE POLICY STATEMENT

God has ordained marriage and defined 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, Administrator, 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.