



## ON IDENTITY, SEXUALITY, & RELATIONSHIPS

At Allegheny Center Alliance Church, our mission is **following Jesus in diverse community**. In a cultural moment marked by confusion and deeply personal questions, we desire to be a church marked by both conviction and compassion.

The following statements express our Biblically-shaped vision of human flourishing rooted in God's good design. These topics can stir deep pain or disagreement, but we aim to speak the truth in love—upholding God's design while extending the mercy of Christ to all (John 1:14, Ephesians 4:15).

### Human Dignity

We believe every person is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:4-5) and therefore possesses inherent worth, value, and dignity. Though that image has been distorted by sin, we believe every person is offered redemption through the grace of Jesus Christ (Romans 3:23-24). Regardless of one's story, background, or present experience, every human life is sacred and reflects the Creator's intentional design. This foundational truth shapes our posture on all matters of identity, sexuality, and relationships. We are committed to being a church that honors the dignity of every person while inviting all people into the transforming grace and truth of Jesus Christ (John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Our convictions are not rooted in condemnation, but in a desire to see all people flourish by aligning their lives with God's good and gracious design.

### Human Sexuality

We believe that human sexuality is a good gift from God, designed to be expressed in covenant marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6). While all people experience the distortion of sin—including in their sexual desires—we believe God's Word calls us to holiness and wholeness in every area of life (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). Sexual intimacy outside of God's intended design, including same-sex sexual behavior, adultery, and sexual activity apart from covenant commitment, falls short of God's will (Romans 1:24-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Yet through Jesus, there is forgiveness, freedom, and the hope of transformation for all who submit to His lordship (2 Corinthians 5:17, John 8:11).

### Gender Identity

We believe that God created humanity in His image, male and female, and that our created sex is a sacred part of our identity (Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:13-14). While we recognize the deep pain and complexity experienced by those who struggle with gender dysphoria, we believe that true freedom is found not in rejecting our God-given design, but in embracing it (Romans 12:2). We are committed to walking with compassion alongside those navigating gender identity questions, while holding to the biblical conviction that gender is not fluid or self-determined, but a good and unchangeable gift from our Creator (Mark 10:6).

## **Marriage & Singleness**

Our church seeks to honor and strengthen both marriage and singleness as callings to glorify God in relationship. We believe that marriage is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman, designed by God to reflect His love and faithfulness (Ephesians 5:31–32, Malachi 2:14–16). Marriage is a sacred union for companionship, sexual intimacy, and, when possible, the raising of children (Genesis 1:28, 2:24). We reject redefinitions of marriage that deviate from God’s intended design. We are called to honor the covenant of marriage and uphold its purity (Hebrews 13:4).

We recognize that not all are called to marriage, and we affirm the dignity and calling of single persons (1 Corinthians 7:7–8). We believe that singleness is a good and honorable lifestyle, modeled by Jesus Himself (Matthew 19:12). Single individuals—whether unmarried, divorced, or widowed—have a unique capacity for devotion to Christ and service in His Church (1 Corinthians 7:32–35). Singleness is not a season of waiting for fulfillment, but a distinct way of embodying the Gospel. We reject the tendency within the Church to elevate marriage as the highest form of Christian maturity. Instead, we commit to creating a culture where single men and women are deeply valued, spiritually empowered, and meaningfully included in the life of our community (Romans 12:4–6).

## **Divorce & Remarriage**

We believe that marriage is intended to be a covenant commitment that reflects God’s love and faithfulness (Ephesians 5:31–32). While God’s design is for lifelong faithfulness (Matthew 19:6), we recognize that we live in a broken world, and there are biblically permitted reasons for divorce and remarriage. These include sexual immorality (Matthew 19:9), abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Corinthians 7:15), and abuse or serious neglect (Exodus 21:10–11). We encourage those navigating relational brokenness to pursue healing and restoration, and we walk with those who have experienced the pain of divorce and remarriage in a posture of grace, truth, and hope.

We also recognize that some may have experienced divorce or remarriage outside of these biblical allowances. In such cases, we do not withhold grace or community. While we uphold God’s design, we also believe that in Christ there is forgiveness, healing, and the possibility of a restored witness moving forward (1 John 1:9; John 8:11). Our aim is not to shame, but to shepherd—with truth that restores and grace that welcomes.

## **Pornography & Sex Addiction**

We believe that pornography and compulsive sexual behaviors impact both men and women, distorting God’s design for intimacy (Matthew 5:27–28). Pornography objectifies people made in God’s image (Genesis 1:27), damages relationships, and leads many into cycles of shame and isolation (Ephesians 5:3, Galatians 5:19–21). In every temptation, God is faithful to provide a way forward (1 Corinthians 10:13). As a church, we are committed to truth-telling, accountability, and pastoral care in this area (James 5:16). Jesus offers not only forgiveness but freedom, and we believe the church should be a safe place for men and women to pursue healing, community, and sexual integrity (John 8:36, Galatians 5:1).