



洛杉磯真道靈糧堂

Bread Of Life Christian Church in Los Angeles

BLCCLA Policy on Human Sexuality and Marriage

Introduction

This is a policy statement on the beliefs of Bread of Life Christian Church in Los Angeles (BLCCLA) regarding the issues of human sexuality and marriage and our policies based upon the necessary application of our faith to life and practice.

What We Believe About Human Sexuality and Marriage

We believe, based on the teaching of the Scriptures, that marriage is an institution established and ordained by God and intended to be a lifelong union between one man and one woman. This understanding is supported by the account of creation in Genesis 1 and 2 where God created man in His own image, both male and female and together they were husband and wife and had "no shame" or sin in their union with each other (Genesis 2:15-25)

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ also re-affirmed when he said in Matthew 19:4-6 "Haven't you read, he replied, that at the beginning the creator made them male and female and said for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

In the epistles, the Apostle Paul teaches in Ephesians 5:22-32 that marriage is not only a divine institution created by God, it is also a metaphor to illustrate the union between Christ and the church.

Since marriage has such a profound meaning, the Scriptures teaches the believers to stay pure sexually and flee from practices that is sexually immoral (1 Cor 6:9-11, Romans 1:18-22). These practices includes but not limited to fornication, adultery, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia, polygamy, and bestiality. Not only that, we see lewd conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation or distribution or viewing of pornography behaviors that are incompatible with God's original intention.

Based on the above religious beliefs, is called to teach and pass down practice these teachings to the church members. Although we strive to live peacefully with all people and to obey legitimate government authority, in instances involving matters as foundational as marriage we must ultimately obey God rather than man if the two come into conflict.

Our Faith Based Policy on Human Sexuality and Marriage

As a result of the above described religious beliefs, it is our policy that the facilities of BLCCLA may not be used for any ceremony that in any way approves or supports or allows any union with any nature that are considered as biblically immoral (such as same-sex union, polygamist union, or any union which in some way constitutes child abuse). It is also the policy of the church that no pastor or member of the church staff shall officiate at any ceremony designed to approve or support of such a union.



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At the same time, BLCCLA recognizes that we all struggle with sin. Therefore, we hope to provide an environment that welcomes people who struggle with sexual sins while we seek to love all people in Jesus' name and point them to forgiveness and healing based on the power of the cross.

Church Practices Derived from This Policy

Clergy

1. Ordained clergy or licensed ministers employed by the church shall affirm the statement of faith on human sexuality and marriage adopted by this church.
2. Only ordained or duly licensed clergy approved by this church shall officiate at marriage ceremonies conducted on church property.
3. Clergy employed by the church shall be subject to dismissal and/or loss of ordination for violating this statement of faith on human sexuality and marriage or by officiating at a marriage ceremony that violates the letter or the spirit of this policy.

Applicants for weddings performed by church staff:

1. Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a member of the clergy employed or clergy or judiciary approved by the church or to use the church facilities for their wedding shall affirm the statement of faith regarding human sexuality and marriage and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
2. Applicants shall participate in premarital counseling by clergy or counselors employed by this church or other persons who, in the sole opinion of the pastoral staff of the church have the appropriate training, experience, and spiritual understanding to provide such counseling. All pastoral staff, counselors or other persons providing premarital counseling shall affirm the statement of faith of this church on human sexuality and marriage.

Use of Facilities:

1. Any marriage performed on church premises shall be officiated by an ordained or duly licensed member of the clergy. Any officiant not employed by the BLCCLA shall serve at the discretion of the pastor or the Board.
2. Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on church premises, whether or not employed by the church, shall affirm their agreement with the statement of faith on human sexuality and marriage adopted by this church and conducts them in a manner that is consistent therewith.
3. Clergy and staff assigned by the church to implement the procedures contained in this Marriage Policy may, in his or her discretion, decline to provide church facilities for, and/or decline to officiate at a ceremony when in his or her judgment, there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons.

Membership, Leadership and Staff:

1. Every minister, board member, or employee, hired by the church shall affirm their agreement with BLCCLA's statement on human sexuality and marriage and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
2. The Board will be asked to affirm their agreement with this policy on human sexuality and marriage and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
3. Church leaders, teachers and members are expected to teach and live in a manner that is consistent with this policy.