

RPTS STATEMENT ON HUMAN IDENTITY AND CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR

Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that 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 (Psalm 139).

Statement on Gender

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect God's image and nature (Genesis 1:26-27). We acknowledge that in this fallen world, on rare occasions, a person is born with anatomical ambiguity. We affirm the dignity and image of God fully shared by such persons and support their efforts to determine with competent medical counsel their anatomical sex and coordinate gender calling (*2017 Minutes of Synod*, page 122). Nevertheless, the vast majority of persons are born with clear anatomical sex distinction. God has called each person to live within the gender indicated by his or her anatomy (*2017 Minutes of Synod*, page 120). We believe it is sinful behavior to reject one's sex given by God at conception or attempting to alter one's sex given by God at conception, including dressing in such a way as to willfully reject one's sex given by God at conception.

Statement on Marriage

We believe 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 marriage between one man and one woman, for life, uniquely reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (Ephesians 5:21-22). 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; 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.

Statement on Sexuality

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