

## **CASTLEREAGH FELLOWSHIP**

### **SEXUALITY, GENDER & MARRIAGE POLICY**

1. We believe that God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in his own image, equal in dignity and worth but distinct as male and female. The divinely ordained differences between male and female are meant for human good and flourishing.

Bible references: Genesis 1:27; 2:18, 21-23.

2. We believe that the differences between male and female reproductive structures are integral to God's design for perception as male and female. Those born with a physical disorder of sex development are of equal dignity and worth with all other image-bearers and are to be treated with understanding.

Bible references: Genesis 2:24; 4:1; Psalm 139:13-14; Matthew 19:12.

3. We believe that God designed marriage to be a covenantal, sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife, signifying the covenant love between Christ and his bride the church. Marriage is more than a human contract and is a covenant made before God. Christians are only at liberty to marry "in the Lord", that is, to marry a fellow believer.

Bible references: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5, 39; Ephesians 5:25-28, 31-32; 2 Corinthians 6:14-15.

4. We believe that God's revealed will for all people is chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage. This applies irrespective of any affections, desires or commitments we may have.

Bible references: Genesis 2:24; Proverbs 5:1-23; 6:20-35; 7:1-27; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:27-30; 19:3-9; Acts 15:20,29; Hebrews 13:4.

5. We believe that sin distorts sexual desires by directing them away from the marriage covenant and toward sexual immorality, whether heterosexual or homosexual. All Christians are called to resist all such temptations and to repent of all such activity.

Bible references: Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 18-20; Galatians 5:24; 1 Timothy 1:9-10.

6. We believe that it is our duty to present gospel hope and speak the truth in love at all times but that it is sinful to approve of sexual immorality (heterosexual or homosexual) or transgenderism. God's grace in Christ is sufficient for all sinners to receive forgiveness for their sin and power through which they can live a rich and fruitful life that is pleasing to God.

Bible references: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:15, 17-24; 5:3; Colossians 3:5-7; 1 Timothy 1:15; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 2:11; Jude 1:7.