



Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

Revised December 2019

Salisbury Christian School (SCS) foundational beliefs and teachings are based on Biblical truth. The Bible is God's Word, divinely inspired, infallible, and is the final authority of truth. We endeavor to teach students, in all areas of life and education, from a distinctly Christian worldview. This includes instructing students to understand the world, issues, and relationships based on God's Word, which prepares them to assume their proper place in the home, the church, and the world. Accordingly, the Bible is the basis from which we form our foundational beliefs regarding marriage, sexuality, and gender identity. The purpose of this statement is to affirm Salisbury Christian School's alignment with the truth of God's Word.

However, cultural and social change is a reality and is not new to any period of time. Shifts in American culture can be described as a moral revolution falsely declaring a moral standard higher than the Biblical standard. As portions of the American population embrace moral relativism, religious liberty has been questioned. There are attempts in our culture to deny the freedom of Christians to base moral judgement on Biblical truth. This presents new challenges for Christ-centered institutions that hold to a historical Biblical interpretation of marriage and human sexuality. We embrace an opportunity to examine and affirm convictions and to communicate the position of SCS on these issues to anyone who inquires.

According to its bylaws, policies, and mission, SCS exists for the education of children in partnership with Christian families and the church. Our admission standards require at least one parent profess a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. However, we acknowledge that some professing Christians choose to live apart from God's will by adopting a lifestyle that is contrary to Biblical standards. At the same time, clear understanding is necessary regarding marriage, sexuality, and gender identity as they relate to the SCS Statement of Faith. All students must abide by the school's Parent/Student Handbook as it relates to appropriate sexual expression and behavior. The school will explicitly teach these truths honestly, prayerfully, sensitively, respectfully, contextually, age-appropriately, and with the conviction that we all sin and are in need of God's grace.

MARRIAGE

Marriage is created by God and has only one meaning. It is a covenant relationship uniting one man and one woman under God in a single, exclusive union. God's created order is important and critical for our lives and for our worldview. The marriage covenant is a part of God's prescribed order for our lives and our families; it is the basis of society. Furthermore, God's Word makes use of the marriage relationship as the supreme metaphor for his relationship with his covenant people. Marriage is used as a primary example from the beginning of creation in Genesis to the end of earthly time in Revelation to help humanity understand the covenant relationship of one God with one people.

(Genesis 2:18-25; Jeremiah 2:2, 31:31-33; Ezekiel 16:8; Hosea 2:16, 19-20; Matthew 9:15, 25:1-13; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-33; Revelation 19:7-9, 21:1-3, 9)

SEXUALITY

Sex is a gift from God created to be enjoyed with fidelity in the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman. In singleness, all are called to chastity. Sexual relations outside the covenant of marriage are contrary to the will of God. The Bible is the final authority regarding sexual behavior and as such relates moral truths specifically and generally through scripture.

(Exodus 20:14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Hebrews 13:4; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-27)

EXPRESSION AND GENDER ASSIGNMENT/IDENTITY

It is God who assigns our fundamental human identity and gender. All humans, male and female, reflect the image of God. A person's gender is sacred and has a divine purpose. The Word affirms that God loves all people, including those who struggle with their gender assignment, identity, and expression. Therefore, we are to love all people, regardless of any type of struggle.

The Bible describes human gender in binary terms. Genesis 1:27 provides the definitive statement: "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Regardless of one's anatomical parts or feelings about them, all humans have the same responsibility for stewarding physical attributes and abilities. Our bodies are God's dwelling place. In the context of discussing sexual identity and behavior, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Therefore, SCS will uphold the Biblical view of gender and will adhere to its position on gender issues aligned with truth in its teachings, curriculum, and treatment of students.

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

All employees of SCS are Christian leaders who have the obligation to model and exemplify Christ-like behavior. Therefore, all school employees must uphold, in word and deed, the Biblical standard of marriage and sexual behavior as delineated in this statement.

NON-HARASSMENT POLICY

All people are created in the image of God and, as such, have profound value (Genesis 1:27). Hateful or harassing behavior toward anyone who differs from us is wrong because it does not recognize another person's God-given worth and is an assault on a fellow image-bearer. SCS is committed to maintaining an environment in which all individuals (staff, students, and parents) treat each other with dignity and respect, which includes freedom from all forms of intimidation, exploitation, harassment, sexual harassment, and bullying.