



LIVING HOPE
BIBLE CHURCH

Statement on Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage and Sexuality

The position of Living Hope Bible Church on matters of marriage, divorce, remarriage, and sexuality (Appendix to the Church Constitution)

We teach that marriage was established by God as part of His universal grace, and marriage does not exist for any purpose other than the one established by God (Genesis 2:18-24). We teach that marriage bears the consequences and curse of the Fall, but believers who live according to Scripture and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit can experience the peace, good fruit, and satisfaction that God intended in marriage (Genesis 3:16, 1 Peter 3:7).

We teach that Christian marriage should illustrate the love between Christ and His church, where the husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church, and the wife responds to her husband as the church responds to the love and leadership of Christ (Ephesians 5:18-33).

We teach that Christian marriage illustrates the relationship between Christ and His church, so believers should marry and enter into marriage with those who share their faith and new life (1 Corinthians 7:39, 2 Corinthians 6:14).

We teach that the term "marriage" has only one meaning—a union sanctioned by God between one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union as described in the Scriptures (Genesis 2:23-24).

We teach that marriage always represents a public, formal, and officially recognized union between a man and a woman. We teach that cohabitation, without such a union (unless recognized as a common-law marriage under applicable law), does not establish or equate to marriage (John 4:18). We teach that in situations where such a union has not been established or cannot be accurately determined until the cohabiting couple turns to Christ, preserving the family unit should be a priority, and marriage should be encouraged. We teach that in situations where a marriage took place before coming to Christ, the married couple should remain in the marriage (1 Corinthians 7:24).

We teach that God hates divorce and allows it only in cases of unrepentant sexual sin (Malachi 2:14-16, Matthew 5:32, 19:9) or abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Corinthians 7:12-15). We teach that remarriage is permissible only with a believer, but only if the divorce was biblically based (1 Corinthians 7:39).

We teach that God has designed sexual intimacy to be experienced only between a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage. We teach that God

commands abstinence from any intimate sexual activity outside of the marital union between a man and a woman (Hebrews 13:4).

We teach that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, pornography, gender reassignment, or rejection of one's biological sex, is contrary to God's will (Leviticus 18:1-30, Matthew 5:28, Romans 1:26-29, 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8).

We teach that homosexuality is a personal choice and is not inherited. The homosexual lifestyle is a result of ungrateful rejection of God as the Lord and Master of life (Romans 1:18-28).

We teach that every person is worthy of compassion, love, kindness, respect, and honor. Expressions of hatred and insults directed towards any individual should be condemned and prevented, as they do not align with the spirit of Scripture and the doctrines of the church. We teach that faithful proclamation of Scripture, including the call to repentance, is not an act of hatred or insult but, on the contrary, is a fundamental aspect of the loving mission to a perishing world (Matthew 28:16-20, 2 Corinthians 5:11-20, 1 Timothy 1:5, 2 Timothy 4:1-2).

We teach that God offers redemption and forgiveness to all who confess and forsake their sin, including sexual sin, by seeking His mercy through Jesus Christ. We teach that His forgiveness is complete (Psalm 103:11-12, 130:3-4, Isaiah 43:25, 44:22, John 5:24, Colossians 2:13-14). God imputes Christ's righteousness to the one who believes. We teach that the forgiven sinner is cleansed from all guilt, set apart for God, and justified before Him (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). We teach that any man or woman who has received forgiveness is "in Christ" and is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).