

Resolution – Ministering to the LGBTQ+ Community

Our society has undergone radical changes in the last decade, from the legalization of same-sex marriages by the United States Supreme Court, to the ongoing fight not only for LGBTQ+ rights, but the growing expectation for societal acceptance of views on marriage, gender, and sex that depart from both natural and Biblical definitions. In rejection of God's righteous decree, homosexuality has become acceptable and celebrated in secular culture and some segments of the evangelical church (Romans 1:32).

As Regular Baptists, we affirm the following from Scripture:

- “Our Creator established human gender biologically in fixed, binary categories: male and female. Seeking to confuse or change the God-given distinction of the two genders violates God's creative design and revealed will.” (Genesis 2:18, 24, 25; Matthew 19:4–6; Romans 1:24–29; 7:2; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 7:1–5; Ephesians 5:22–33; Hebrews 13:4) (*Regular Baptist Ministries (RBM) Articles of Faith, Article V.*)
- God's design for marriage and intimate physical relationships is one man and one woman for life (Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18, 21-25, Matthew 19:3-6).
- The LGBTQ+ movement redefines love, marriage, morality, and God Himself, exchanging God's natural design for unnatural pursuits (Romans 1:26-27), God's glory for idols (Romans 1:23), and God's truth for the lie (Romans 1:25).
- Homosexual desire and practice are sin (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, Matthew 5:28).
- Repentance requires regret and grief over sin a change of mind regarding past and present pursuit of sinful desires and turning to the Lord Jesus Christ as the only hope of rescue from sin and its inevitable result of eternal separation from the Triune God. (1 Corinthians 6:11, 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 1 Peter 2:25; 2 Corinthians 7:10)
- The gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ is sufficient for every sin, bringing sinners forgiveness and the hope of heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:15).

We, the messengers of RBM meeting in annual conference, June 24-27, 2024, in Elgin, Illinois, commit to uphold truth and pursue the Great Commission of making disciples. We will speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), communicating the gospel with those enslaved to LGBTQ+ pursuits.

We purpose to define love from Scripture (Psalm 119:160) as demonstrated by God (1 John 4:19), who is both loving and righteous (Psalm 89:14, 33:5). God showed His love ultimately through Jesus' death on the cross (John 3:16). True love is consistent with God's design, expressed through godly character (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). Love cannot be reduced to a feeling nor be equated with sexual immorality of any kind (Ephesians 5:2-3).

We confess and repent of the fact that at times we have missed gospel opportunities, letting revulsion for sin prompt our withdrawal from the world, rather than going *into* the world (Mark 16:15) to be *in* the world (John 17:11) but not *of* the world (John 17:14, 16).

Resolution on Ministering to the LGBTQ+ Community (*continued*)

We resolve to minister to those enslaved to LGBTQ+ desires and pursuits through listening (Proverbs 18:2, 13; James 1:19-21), asking thoughtful questions, conveying care and concern, and sowing hope. Though we disagree with their worldview, we seek to understand their struggles, beliefs, and conclusions. We will gracefully challenge the thinking and perspective of the LGBTQ+ community, exercising gentleness as a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). We will work to be an instrument of peace (Proverbs 15:1) and a bridge to hope (1 Peter 3:15) so that we may defend the faith (2 Corinthians 10:5) and offer correction (2 Timothy 2:25-26) in the proclamation of the gospel (Romans 1:16).

We will regularly relate with others through personal testimony (1 Timothy 1:8-17) to communicate the gospel personally and effectively. We recognize that the goal of outreach is a changed relationship with God through the gospel, resulting in change of behavior (1 Timothy 1:15, 1 Corinthians 6:11). We will seek to discern when and how to confront ungodly living (1 Timothy 1:8-11), remembering the magnitude of our own sin (1 Timothy 1:13, 15), that we may exalt and proclaim God's overflowing grace, purposeful mercy, and perfect patience (1 Timothy 1:14-16), a patience that awaits a response of repentance (Romans 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9) that turns to Jesus for salvation (Acts 4:12) and transformation (Romans 12:2).

We will readily pray and care for those struggling with sinful desire, ministering with grace and truth to bring hope and help from God's Word to find freedom and victory in Christ.

Resolution adopted by the messengers at the RBM annual meeting, June 24-27, 2024, in Elgin, Illinois.