

# Human Sexuality and Marriage

## Addendum to the “Nashville Statement (A coalition for Biblical sexuality)”

Through discussion, prayer and Biblical exegesis, East Hills Community Church (in Riverside, CA) has accepted the “*Nashville Statement (A coalition for Biblical sexuality)*” as their official position regarding human sexuality and marriage. We join with the Initial Signatories in declaring that God’s Word is the standard and final authority of all things.

This addendum is to bring clarity to each of the articles of the Nashville Statement. The addendum does not change the articles in the statement; but only serves to bring clarity to those members and attenders of East Hills Community Church.

The scriptures cited by the Nashville Statement have been typed out in the second part of the addendum so one can quickly reference them instead of having to look them up. We also provided the original articles of the Nashville Statement so you don’t have to go back and forth between documents. The text from the Nashville Statement will be in red below, followed by the addendum text of East Hills (recorded in black).

Definition of terms in this document:

- **Sexual immorality** is “the ‘selling off’ of sexual purity and involves any type of sexual expression outside the boundaries of a biblically defined marriage relationship.” (Expanded On in “Article 2 – Addendum”)
- **Self-Conception** is “One’s conception of oneself; how a person views himself or herself” (Google).
- The **Gospel** is “The Good News” of God the Father sending his son, Jesus, to reconcile all mankind to God through his redeeming work on the cross and resurrection three days later.
- **Grace** is “unmerited favor” (a favor from God that is not earned). God’s grace is not dependent on who we are or what we do; but solely on the fact that he chooses to gift it to us.

### Article 1

WE AFFIRM that God has designed marriage to be covenantal, sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife, and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and his bride the church.

WE DENY that God has designed marriage to be a homosexual, polygamous, or polyamorous relationship. We also deny that marriage is a mere human contract rather than a covenant made before God.

### Article 1 - Addendum

(Revelation 3:2) “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.”

When a man and a woman stand ready to exchange vows at their wedding, they do so in the presence of God. Those vows exchanged with one another are also vowed to God and before God.

References to polygamy (and other things) in scripture are not an indication that it was right in the eyes of God. Some scripture texts are descriptive (what was happening) and others prescriptive (how we are to live). References to polygamy are descriptive of what was happening at the time (and the consequences and their effect on the family were often devastating).

## **Article 2**

WE AFFIRM that God's revealed will for all people is chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage.

WE DENY that any affections, desires, or commitments ever justify sexual intercourse before or outside marriage; nor do they justify any form of sexual immorality.

### **Article 2 - Addendum**

"In the New Testament, the word most often translated 'sexual immorality' is porneia. This word is also translated as 'whoredom,' 'fornication,' and 'idolatry.' It means 'a surrendering of sexual purity,' and it is primarily used of premarital sexual relations. From this Greek word we get the English word pornography, stemming from the concept of 'selling off.' Sexual immorality is the 'selling off' of sexual purity and involves any type of sexual expression outside the boundaries of a biblically defined marriage relationship" (<https://www.gotquestions.org/sexual-immorality.html>).

(Matthew 19:4-5) "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?"

## **Article 3**

WE AFFIRM that God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in his own image, equal before God as persons, and distinct as male and female.

WE DENY that the divinely ordained differences between male and female render them unequal in dignity or worth.

### **Article 3 - Addendum**

(Genesis 1:27) So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

## **Article 4**

WE AFFIRM that divinely ordained differences between male and female reflect God's original creation design and are meant for human good and human flourishing.

WE DENY that such differences are a result of the Fall or are tragedy to be overcome.

### **Article 4 - Addendum**

God determines if we are male or female in his creation of human beings. We are created different with different roles all by God's design. Terms of self-conception that expand beyond male or female ("God's design of his image bearers") dishonor God and should not be used or accepted.

## **Article 5**

WE AFFIRM that the difference between male and female reproductive structures are integral to God's design for self-conception as male or female.

WE DENY that physical anomalies or psychological conditions nullify the God-appointed link between biological sex and self-conception as male or female.

### **Article 5 - Addendum**

Self-Conception is "One's conception of oneself; how a person views himself or herself" (Google). True self-conception is based on God's design in creation, not to be changed or determined by us.

(Genesis 1:27) So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

## **Article 6**

WE AFFIRM that those born with a physical disorder of sex development are created in the image of God and have dignity and worth equal to all other image-bearers. They are acknowledged by our Lord Jesus in his words about "eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb." With all others they are welcome as faithful followers of Jesus Christ and should embrace their biological sex insofar as it may be known.

WE DENY that ambiguities related to a person's biological sex render one incapable of living a fruitful life in joyful obedience to Christ.

### **Article 6 - Addendum**

No clarity or addition necessary.

## **Article 7**

WE AFFIRM that self-conception as male or female should be defined by God's holy purposes in creation and redemption as revealed in Scripture.

WE DENY that adopting a homosexual or transgender self-conception is consistent with God's holy purposes in creation and redemption.

### **Article 7 - Addendum**

Our self-conception based on anything else is wrong.

## **Article 8**

WE AFFIRM that people who experience sexual attraction for the same sex may live a rich and fruitful life pleasing to God through faith in Jesus Christ, as they, like all Christians, walk in purity of life.

WE DENY that sexual attraction for the same sex is part of the natural goodness of God's original creation, or that it puts a person outside the hope of the gospel.

### **Article 8 - Addendum**

Human beings are born with a sinful nature and that sinful nature is attracted to sin (e.g temptation). Acting on anything that leads us to sin is outside of God's will. We can never embrace sin or justify it. Sin leads to death (James 1:14-15); however God's grace is sufficient for all sin and all sinners.

(Romans 3:23) "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

(Romans 6:23) "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

## **Article 9**

WE AFFIRM that sin distorts sexual desires by directing them away from the marriage covenant and toward sexual immorality - a distortion that includes both heterosexual and homosexual immorality.

WE DENY that an enduring pattern of desire for sexual immorality justifies sexually immoral behavior.

### **Article 9 - Addendum**

No clarity or addition necessary.

## **Article 10**

WE AFFIRM that it is sinful to approve of homosexual immorality or transgenderism and that such approval constitutes an essential departure from Christian faithfulness and witness.

WE DENY that the approval of homosexual immorality or transgenderism is a matter of moral indifference about which otherwise faithful Christians should agree to disagree.

### **Article 10 - Addendum**

Sin must be exposed as sin and avoided, as we pursue God and his righteousness. Scripture calls on us to confront sin, put off sin, and repent of sin (which implies not only confession but a turning away from the sin towards righteousness).

(Hebrews 12:1-3) "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

## **Article 11**

WE AFFIRM our duty to speak the truth in love at all times, including when we speak to or about one another as male or female.

WE DENY any obligation to speak in such ways that dishonor God's design of his image bearers as male and female.

### **Article 11 - Addendum**

As stated in the "Article 4 – Addendum" ...Terms of self-conception that expand beyond male or female ("God's design of his image bearers") dishonor God and should not be used or accepted.

## **Article 12**

WE AFFIRM that the grace of God in Christ gives both merciful pardon and transforming power, and that this pardon and power enable a follower of Jesus to put to death sinful desires and to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.

WE DENY that the grace of God in Christ is insufficient to forgive all sexual sins and to give power for holiness to every believer who feels drawn into sexual sin.

### **Article 12 - Addendum**

This addresses all sinners and all sin.

(2 Corinthians 12:9) My grace is sufficient for you...

(Ephesians 2:8-9) "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast."

## **Article 13**

WE AFFIRM that the grace of God in Christ enables sinners to forsake transgender self-conceptions and by divine forbearance to accept the God-ordained link between one's biological sex and one's self-conception as male or female.

WE DENY that the grace of God in Christ sanctions self-conceptions that are at odds with God's revealed will.

### **Article 13 - Addendum**

We are who God created us to be. God does not make mistakes. Each person is "fearfully and wonderfully" made by God.

(Psalm 139:13-14) For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

## **Article 14**

WE AFFIRM that Christ Jesus has come into the world to save sinners and that through Christ's death and resurrection forgiveness of sins and eternal life are available to every person who repents of sin and trusts in Christ alone as Savior, Lord, and supreme treasure.

WE DENY that the Lord's arm is too short to save or that any sinner is beyond his reach.


### **Article 14 - Addendum**

Thanks be to God who desires all men to be saved and provided a way for all through his son, Jesus Christ, and his redeeming work on the cross (The Gospel).

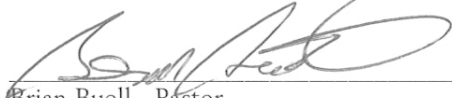
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The signatures below indicate that the "Nashville statement (A coalition for Biblical sexuality)" and it's addendum (written by East Hills Community Church) is our official stand on human sexuality and marriage. The signatures show complete agreement among the Pastoral Staff, Elders and Deacons.

Documents agreed up and implemented on February 7, 2022.



John Stewart - Lead Pastor / Elder



Brian Buell - Pastor



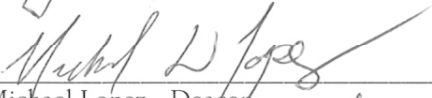
Andy Balogh - Deacon



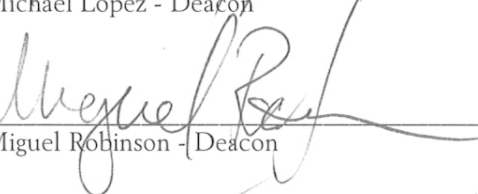
Bob Cervantes - Deacon



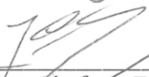
Jason Holmes - Deacon



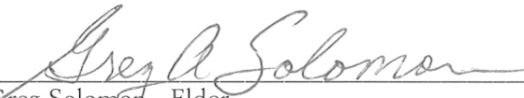
Michael Lopez - Deacon



Miguel Robinson - Deacon



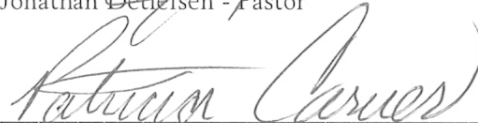
Tim Shafer - Elder



Greg Solomon - Elder



Jonathan Detlefsen - Pastor



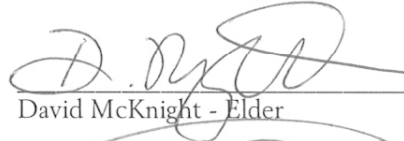
Patty Carver - Deacon



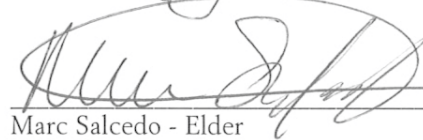
Mark Gregorek - Deacon



Ken Koozin - Elder



David McKnight - Elder



Marc Salcedo - Elder



Joel Smithwick - Deacon



Chad Weatherwax - Deacon

# Human Sexuality and Marriage

## Scripture References (from the NIV Bible)

### Genesis 1:26-28

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." <sup>27</sup>So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup>God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

### Genesis 2:15-25

<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup>but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

<sup>18</sup>The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

<sup>19</sup>Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup>So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup>The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." <sup>24</sup>That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

### Genesis 3:1-24

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

<sup>4</sup>"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup>He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

<sup>11</sup>And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

<sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said,

“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup>To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup>It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

<sup>20</sup>Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

<sup>21</sup>The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup>And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” <sup>23</sup>So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup>After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Exodus 20:14

14“**You shall not commit adultery.**”

Exodus 20:17

17“**You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**”

Leviticus 18:22

22“**Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.**”

Leviticus 20:13

13“**If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.**”

Deuteronomy 5:18

18“**You shall not commit adultery.**”



## Deuteronomy 5:21

<sup>21</sup>“You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor’s house or land, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

## Deuteronomy 22:5

<sup>5</sup>A woman must not wear men’s clothing, nor a man wear women’s clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this.

## Judges 19:22

<sup>22</sup>While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they shouted to the old man who owned the house, “Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him.”

## 2 Samuel 11:1-12:15

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, <sup>3</sup>and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” <sup>4</sup>Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. <sup>5</sup>The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”

<sup>6</sup>So David sent this word to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent him to David. <sup>7</sup>When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. <sup>8</sup>Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. <sup>9</sup>But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master’s servants and did not go down to his house.

<sup>10</sup>David was told, “Uriah did not go home.” So he asked Uriah, “Haven’t you just come from a military campaign? Why didn’t you go home?”

<sup>11</sup>Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord’s men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!”

<sup>12</sup>Then David said to him, “Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. <sup>13</sup>At David’s invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master’s servants; he did not go home.

<sup>14</sup>In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. <sup>15</sup>In it he wrote, “Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.”

<sup>16</sup>So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. <sup>17</sup>When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David’s army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

<sup>18</sup>Joab sent David a full account of the battle. <sup>19</sup>He instructed the messenger: “When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, <sup>20</sup>the king’s anger may flare up, and he may ask you, ‘Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn’t you know they would shoot arrows from the wall?’ <sup>21</sup>Who killed Abimelek son of Jerub-Besheth? Didn’t a woman drop an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he

died in Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?' If he asks you this, then say to him, 'Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.'"

<sup>22</sup>The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say. <sup>23</sup>The messenger said to David, "The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance of the city gate. <sup>24</sup>Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king's men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead."

<sup>25</sup>David told the messenger, "Say this to Joab: 'Don't let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.' Say this to encourage Joab."

<sup>26</sup>When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. <sup>27</sup>After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.

The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. <sup>2</sup>The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, <sup>3</sup>but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

<sup>4</sup>"Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

<sup>5</sup>David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! <sup>6</sup>He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

<sup>7</sup>Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup>I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. <sup>9</sup>Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup>Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

<sup>11</sup>"This is what the Lord says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. <sup>12</sup>You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"

<sup>13</sup>Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. <sup>14</sup>But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die."

<sup>15</sup>After Nathan had gone home, the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill.

#### Job 31:1

"I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman.

#### Psalms 51:1-19

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

<sup>5</sup>Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup>Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup>Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. <sup>14</sup>Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. <sup>15</sup>Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. <sup>16</sup>You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. <sup>17</sup>My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

<sup>18</sup>May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup>Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

### Proverbs 5:1-23

My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight, <sup>2</sup>that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. <sup>3</sup>For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; <sup>4</sup>but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. <sup>5</sup>Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. <sup>6</sup>She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.

<sup>7</sup>Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say. <sup>8</sup>Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, <sup>9</sup>lest you lose your honor to others and your dignity to one who is cruel, <sup>10</sup>lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich the house of another. <sup>11</sup>At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. <sup>12</sup>You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! <sup>13</sup>I would not obey my teachers or turn my ear to my instructors. <sup>14</sup>And I was soon in serious trouble in the assembly of God's people."

<sup>15</sup>Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. <sup>16</sup>Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? <sup>17</sup>Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. <sup>18</sup>May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. <sup>19</sup>A loving doe, a graceful deer - may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love. <sup>20</sup>Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man's wife? Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman?

<sup>21</sup>For your ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all your paths. <sup>22</sup>The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast. <sup>23</sup>For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.

### Proverbs 6:20-35

My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. <sup>21</sup>Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. <sup>22</sup>When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. <sup>23</sup>For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life, <sup>24</sup>keeping you from your neighbor's wife, from the smooth talk of a wayward woman.

<sup>25</sup>Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes.

<sup>26</sup>For a prostitute can be had for a loaf of bread, but another man's wife preys on your very life. <sup>27</sup>Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? <sup>28</sup>Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? <sup>29</sup>So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished.

<sup>30</sup>People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving. <sup>31</sup>Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house. <sup>32</sup>But a man who commits adultery has no sense; whoever does so destroys himself. <sup>33</sup>Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away.

<sup>34</sup>For jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge. <sup>35</sup>He will not accept any compensation; he will refuse a bribe, however great it is.

#### Proverbs 7:1-27

My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. <sup>2</sup>Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. <sup>3</sup>Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup>Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and to insight, "You are my relative." <sup>5</sup>They will keep you from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive words.

<sup>6</sup>At the window of my house I looked down through the lattice. <sup>7</sup>I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who had no sense. <sup>8</sup>He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house <sup>9</sup>at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in.

<sup>10</sup>Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. <sup>11</sup>(She is unruly and defiant, her feet never stay at home; <sup>12</sup>now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.)

<sup>3</sup>She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said:

<sup>14</sup>"Today I fulfilled my vows, and I have food from my fellowship offering at home. <sup>15</sup>So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you! <sup>16</sup>I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt. <sup>17</sup>I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. <sup>18</sup>Come, let's drink deeply of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love!

<sup>19</sup>My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. <sup>20</sup>He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon." <sup>21</sup>With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. <sup>22</sup>All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose <sup>23</sup>till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.

<sup>24</sup>Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say. <sup>25</sup>Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. <sup>26</sup>Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. <sup>27</sup>Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.

#### Isaiah 59:1

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.

#### Malachi 2:14

<sup>14</sup>You ask, "Why?" It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

#### Matthew 5:27-30

<sup>27</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup>But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

## Matthew 19:4-6

<sup>4</sup>“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ <sup>5</sup>and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?’ <sup>6</sup>So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

## Matthew 19:8-9

<sup>8</sup>Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. <sup>9</sup>I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

## Matthew 12

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. <sup>2</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”

<sup>3</sup>He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup>He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. <sup>5</sup>Or haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? <sup>6</sup>I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. <sup>7</sup>If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. <sup>8</sup>For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

<sup>9</sup>Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, <sup>10</sup>and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”

<sup>11</sup>He said to them, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? <sup>12</sup>How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

<sup>13</sup>Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. <sup>14</sup>But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill.

<sup>16</sup>He warned them not to tell others about him. <sup>17</sup>This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>18</sup>“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. <sup>19</sup>He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. <sup>20</sup>A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. <sup>21</sup>In his name the nations will put their hope.”

<sup>22</sup>Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. <sup>23</sup>All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

<sup>24</sup>But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”

<sup>25</sup>Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. <sup>26</sup>If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? <sup>27</sup>And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. <sup>28</sup>But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

<sup>29</sup>“Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.

<sup>30</sup>“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. <sup>31</sup>And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

<sup>32</sup>Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

<sup>33</sup>“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. <sup>34</sup>You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. <sup>35</sup>A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. <sup>36</sup>But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. <sup>37</sup>For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

<sup>38</sup>Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”

<sup>39</sup>He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup>For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup>The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here. <sup>42</sup>The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, and now something greater than Solomon is here.

<sup>43</sup>“When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. <sup>44</sup>Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. <sup>45</sup>Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

<sup>46</sup>While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. <sup>47</sup>Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”

<sup>48</sup>He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” <sup>49</sup>Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. <sup>50</sup>For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

#### Acts 15:20, 29

<sup>20</sup>Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood...

<sup>29</sup>You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

Farewell.

#### Romans 1:26-27

<sup>26</sup>Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. <sup>27</sup>In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

#### Romans 1:32

<sup>32</sup>Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

## 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

<sup>9</sup>Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men <sup>10</sup>nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

## 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

<sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. <sup>19</sup>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; <sup>20</sup>you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

## 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” <sup>2</sup>But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. <sup>3</sup>The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup>The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. <sup>5</sup>Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. <sup>6</sup>I say this as a concession, not as a command. <sup>7</sup>I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

## 2 Corinthians 5:17

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

## Galatians 5:24

<sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

## Ephesians 4:15

<sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

## Ephesians 4:20-24

<sup>20</sup>That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup>when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup>You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup>to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

## Ephesians 5:31-32

<sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

## 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

<sup>3</sup>It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, <sup>5</sup>not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; <sup>6</sup>and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. <sup>7</sup>For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. <sup>8</sup>Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

## 1 Timothy 1:9-10

<sup>9</sup>We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, <sup>10</sup>for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine

## 1 Timothy 1:15

<sup>15</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

## 2 Timothy 2:22

<sup>22</sup>Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

## Titus 2:11-12

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup>It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age

## Hebrews 13:4

<sup>4</sup>Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

## James 1:14-15

<sup>14</sup>but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

## 1 Peter 2:11

<sup>11</sup>Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul

## Jude 7

<sup>7</sup>In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire