

Sexuality, Gender Identity, and Sexual Conduct Position Statement

Reviewed and amended by the Board on 7-7-21

Our Purpose:

As a Christian School, we feel it is critical to define our school position on human sexuality, gender identity, and sexual conduct for several reasons.

First, this position statement will be used in decisions regarding the intentional curriculum, co-curricular programs, and extracurricular activities at Unity.

Second, this position statement will be used in our admissions and hiring practices by providing a clear position on how the board interprets sexuality and marriage according to God's Word.

Third, this position statement will provide a biblical foundation from which to make decisions as they pertain to programs and people at Unity Christian High School.

Our Position:

Human beings are created in the image of God their Creator, therefore we affirm that all humans have inestimable value and must be treated with dignity and respect. We celebrate God's design and blessing of His gift of sexuality. In His design, we celebrate the joyful covenant of marriage between a man and a woman where each partner confesses, before God and man, their lifelong commitment and unity as husband and wife.

Human beings are born into sin, and there is distortion and brokenness in every facet of our lives. (Romans 3:23, Psalm 51:5, 1 John 1:8) That brokenness begins at conception and impacts the totality of our human experience, including our sexuality and gender identity.

In seeking to be a faithful biblical community, Unity Christian High School is committed to addressing all issues of human sexuality and gender identity with truth and grace. Unity will be a place where we affirm Biblical sexuality as God's gift. God - through His Word, His Son, and the Holy Spirit shows us both the depths of our sin and the boundlessness of God's grace.

In Truth We Affirm:

- The Creator's intent for human sexuality finds its fulfillment between a man and a woman within the lifelong bond of the marriage covenant. (Genesis 2:22-24, Matthew 19:46)
- In order to experience the fullness of God's loving intent in human sexuality, sexual experiences are intended to be celebrated between a man and a woman within the covenant union of marriage. (Genesis 2:22-24; Proverbs 5:18-19; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9; 1 Corinthians 7: 1-16)
- That heterosexual practice outside the covenant of marriage, and all nonheterosexual practice is incompatible with the will of God as revealed in Scripture and is sin, calling for confession and repentance. (Leviticus 20:10; Proverbs 5; Hebrews 13:4; Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-27)
- As image-bearers of God we have been created as "male and female" (Genesis 1:27); adopting a gender identity discordant with one's biological sex is incompatible with Scripture.
- Same-sex attraction is contrary to God's created order and reveals the brokenness of our world. This brokenness does not give us permission to sin. (Matthew 5:28; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, John 8:1-11)
- Our sure and certain hope is that those guilty of violating God's perfect will for human sexuality whether heterosexual or nonheterosexual, can find grace, forgiveness, and restoration through Christ. (Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-10)
- Our commitment is to communicate and uphold God's standards for human sexuality with grace, mercy and equity. (Philippians 2:15; Ephesians 5:12)

With Grace We Commit To:

- Acknowledge our human frailty and our dependence upon Christ for his humility, grace and wisdom in our considerations of human sexuality, seeking always to love one another as He has loved us. (1 John 4:7-21)

- Provide love, support and counsel, alongside parents and the Christian community, for those who struggle with their sexual desires that are not aligned with the truth in God's Word.
- Provide love, support and counsel, alongside parents and the Christian community, for those who struggle with the expression of their sexual behaviors, knowing that at times exercising discipline may be the most loving thing that we can provide. (Hebrews 12:11; Galatians 6:1-2)
- Assure that the safety, dignity and confidentiality of all will be safeguarded. (Matthew 22:37-39)