



# DOLLS

Daughters of Our Living Lord & Savior

DOLLS Headquarters

2001 W. Plano Pkwy, Suite 1205  
Plano, Texas 75075

 DOLLS@DOLLSHeadquarters.com

 (469) 795-1047

## DOLLS STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER, & SEXUALITY

*The purpose of this statement is to affirm DOLLS' alignment with the truth of God's Word. There are attempts in our culture to deny the freedom of Christians to base our moral judgements on Biblical truth. This presents new challenges for Christ-centered organizations, like DOLLS, that hold to a historical Biblical interpretation of gender, marriage, and human sexuality. We embrace this as an opportunity to examine and affirm our deeply held convictions and to articulate the position of DOLLS on these issues to anyone who inquires.*

**God alone stands as the arbiter of what classifies as good and evil, therefore fidelity to our Christian faith necessitates that followers of Christ hold a distinctively Biblical worldview, and in doing so, we must continue to withstand the cultural pressures that seek to justify those actions that rebel against God's created order or sanction those activities that are explicitly identified in His Word as damnable crimes against God.**

- All sin is an act of rebellion against God and a transgression of His standards. We believe in the serious nature of sin and will exercise devotion to Scripture when categorizing behaviors worthy of the just wrath of God. The Bible dictates an explicit moral law that serves as "a tutor," teaching us to identify sinful behavior that will—if persisted in—prevent a person from entering the Kingdom of God (Galatians 3:26). The sinful behaviors noted in Scripture carry threats of damnation to those who remain enslaved by them (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Romans 1:24-32). The Christian must turn the opposite direction (repent) of sin and live as a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17). We believe that God offers forgiveness, redemption, transformation, and restoration to all who confess and repent from their sin and humbly ask for His forgiveness through Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 6:11).
- Any effort to minimize the severity or sinfulness of behaviors that Scripture clearly defines as immoral becomes an attack on the message of the Gospel itself and on the authority of Scripture. It becomes a "Gospel issue" because affirming sinful behavior demands that we celebrate behaviors from which the Bible explicitly calls us to repent. Repentance from sin is an essential component of true regeneration. Therefore, it is imperative that Christians rightly categorize sin as sin. Our message of man's need for a Savior must be clear. Denying the wickedness of any of the depravities listed in Scripture would impair a person's ability to see their need for repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (1 John 1:6; Revelation 2:20).
- We recognize that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Man's nature is inherently opposed to God and defaults to do what God abhors. This nature manifests through numerous sinful behaviors and activities which God graciously defines throughout His Word. This rebellious defiance against our creator is at the core of our belief that mankind is in need of reconciliation which can only be found through repentance from this rebellion and faith in Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for our sins.
- We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sins, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). Repentance is a commitment to turn away from our sinful nature in every aspect of our lives and to follow Christ. Repentance is a gift from God granted when He opens the sinner's eyes to the desperately wicked state of his/her soul, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by His Spirit. Thus, through repentance and faith we receive forgiveness of sins and are made into a new creation that more closely resembles Christ (Acts 2:21; Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17). DOLLS will strive for the utmost care of those seeking to walk a biblically chaste, pure, and obedient life with Christ (1 Cor. 10:13, 1 Jn. 1:8).

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!  
And that is what we are!" — 1 John 3:1 NIV

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- Throughout history, mankind has demonstrated a persistent and unrelenting instinct to normalize sinful behavior in an effort to reduce the felt-guilt they have before God. In our particular era of church history, the public discussion and legal attention being given to gender, marriage, and sexuality make it necessary to present the following statements that specifically address these issues:

#### GENDER

- We believe that God wonderfully and immutably created each person as either male or female (Gen. 1:26-31; 2:18-25; 5:1, 2). 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." These two distinct and complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. God's created order is important and critical for our lives and for our worldview. It is God who assigns our fundamental human identity and our gender. A person's gender is sacred and has a divine purpose. To reject one's biological gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person and is a denial of His created order, thus constituting "sin." Likewise, we affirm that the terms "sex" and "gender" are synonymous.
- We believe it is immoral to seek or make surgical alterations of one's body in order to change one's sex. Since the body is created by God, we hold that sex is biologically determined and gender norms are to be observed per biblical standards (Gen. 1:27, Rom. 1:26-32, 1 Cor. 6:9-11).
- We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the lifelong, covenanted, exclusive union of one biological man and one biological woman in a single, monogamous relationship as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25, Matt. 19:1-9, Mark 10:1-12).

#### MARRIAGE

- 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). Therefore, Christians should have an earnest interest in displaying and preserving the integrity of this tangible illustration according to God's intended design.

#### SEXUALITY

- We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no sexual activity be entertained outside of this sacred marriage union. Any form of sexual intimacy outside of marriage is a rebellious assault against God's good design and represents sin against God. (1 Cor. 6:15-7:6; Eph. 5:3-7)
- We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, use of pornography, or lustful intent toward such) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10, 1 Thess. 4:3, Heb. 13:4). These actions do not conform to God's revealed law governing sexual expression, and thereby necessitate damnable consequences.
- Accordingly, the Bible is the basis from which we form our foundational beliefs regarding marriage, sexuality, and gender identity. A faithful Christian would never encourage people to continue in deliberate sin when they ought to be calling them to repentance, because the Christian understands that unpaid-for sin will result in that person's eternal separation from their Creator and their conscience torment for all eternity (Psalm 5:4). A person engaging in persistent, egregious sin (e.g., lying, stealing, murder, active practice of sexual sin; including fornication, adultery, and



homosexuality, etc.) is acting in a fashion that is inconsistent with biblical teaching (Ex. 20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-6; Rom. 1:18-32). Therefore, as revisionist attacks will undoubtedly continue, true faithful followers of the teachings of Christ must continue to counter attempts to make immoral behavior morally acceptable (James 4:17).

### LEADERSHIP STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

- We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of DOLLS as a reliable, faithful, and trustworthy exercise of the visible community of Christian believers on Earth in our generation, it is our duty and honor to represent Christ in this age as a biblical role model to the young people we serve, their families, their churches, and the community at large. Therefore, it is imperative that all persons affiliated with leadership in DOLLS in any capacity, including those who serve as paid employees or unpaid volunteers, adult or minor, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22).
- All leaders within the DOLLS ministry (including DOLLS Headquarters Staff, the Board of Directors, Legacy Counselors, Volunteers, student Officers (5 Main), Ambassadors, and Start-Up Captains) have the obligation to model and exemplify Christ-like behavior. Therefore, all those in leadership must uphold, in word and deed, the Biblical standard of marriage and sexual behavior as delineated in this statement.
- All leaders must likewise abide by the ministry's Code of Christian Conduct as it relates to appropriate sexual expression and behavior. The ministry and individuals who lead within it 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.
- Any deviation from agreement with this statement, whether in belief or practice will result in being pursued with the hope of repentance and restoration to the fellowship of classical Christian orthodoxy.

### NONHARRASSMENT POLICY

- We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). 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. DOLLS is committed to maintaining an environment in which all individuals treat each other with dignity and respect, which includes freedom from all forms of intimidation, exploitation, harassment, sexual harassment, and bullying. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of DOLLS.

### IMPLICATIONS

- This statement outlines the right and authority of DOLLS to prohibit acts or omissions, including but not limited to permitting any ministry assets or property (real, personal, intangible, intellectual, etc.), to be used in any way contrary to or inconsistent with the doctrines outlined herein.
- This statement is founded on biblical truth and is therefore not subject to change through popular vote, prevailing opinion, or interference by government authority or legal developments.
- Any effort by civil authority to require staff, volunteers, or members of this ministry to violate these provisions of our stated beliefs, shall be viewed as an attack on our religious liberties and the First Amendment rights as expressed in the Constitution of the United States, and will thereby lead to the only alternative left: Engaging in civil disobedience by refusing to comply with their demands, irrespective of the penalties, consequences and cultural stigma that may result as an act of faith that testifies: "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29.)

