
Sunday, September 3, 2017
Did You Know?

Nashville Statement

Throughout Christian history, the church, in response to the culture, has made various statements of belief. Sometimes the culture presented an issue that stood against what orthodox Christianity believed. At other times, the church found itself wrestling through a particular issue. These statements sought to address these concerns and bring about Biblical clarity. Related to doctrine, we have such statements like the Nicene Creed (325AD). Related to mission, there is the Lausanne Covenant (1974). These statements are often named after the city in which they were created. The latest for evangelicals is the Nashville Statement. What is the Nashville Statement? The subtitle reveals the topic, “A Coalition for Biblical Sexuality.”

You and I have witnessed one of the greatest cultural revolutions in history focusing on the subject of human sexuality. More than ever before, the Biblical definition of marriage and what it means to be male and female are being challenged in Western culture. It is in such a time as ours that we need to be clearer than ever about these issues. With compassion and grace, and with a commitment to Biblical truth, we must be certain of what we believe to be true. Here are a couple sentences from this statement:

Article 1

WE AFFIRM that God has designed marriage to be a 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 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.

To a Biblical Christian, these and the rest of the Nashville Statement should not come as a surprise or offensive, but rather as a breath of fresh clarity. We get our understanding of human sexuality from our Christian worldview which is predicated on the Bible being the inerrant and infallible Word of God. You can read the entire document at cbmw.org/nashville-statement/. The church will be providing copies of the document and offering a Q&A in the weeks to come.

Soli Deo Gloria

Pastor Peter