

## **Crosscreek and Homosexuality**

Crosscreek welcomes everyone no matter their beliefs on God, religion, sexuality, or anything else. We want to remove as many barriers as possible that keep people from knowing God's love. God loves all races, genders, orientations, etc. and so do we. We have created this church to be a place where everyone will be welcome and comfortable to discover the love God has for them. No matter their age, race, gender, political party, etc., everyone is welcome to fully participate in what we do to share the love of Jesus... whether it's attending a Sunday service, joining a small group, volunteering on a service team, or joining any outreach activities. Every person is an individual, so we do our best to treat them and their situations with the respect and care God has given each of us

These would be our overarching beliefs when it comes to sexuality...

Due to the effects of sin, all aspects of our lives have become mared, including sexuality. It is only through the love, sacrifice, and grace of God through Jesus Christ that we can be restored to our original design, either in this life or when we are with Jesus for eternity.

We believe that homosexuality is not part of God's original design for our sexuality, that He did create only two genders (male and female), and that marriage is designed and reserved for one man and one woman. We also believe sexual (homosexual or heterosexual) feelings and desires are not necessarily a choice (nor an act of sin), but how we act on those feelings are.

Everyone has been marred by sin. Those who identify as "straight" are just as "sinful" as those who do not. Therefore, there is no difference whether sexual sin involves homosexuality or heterosexuality.

Someone can have homosexual feelings and still fully love Jesus, have a secure assurance of enjoying Heaven, and fully participate in the life and activities of the Church. We don't believe that we can change anyone or "pray the gay away" or anything like that. How Jesus transforms someone is between them and Christ. So, we strive to treat each person and their situation individually and be as much like Jesus as possible.

In John 8, when the religious leaders are trying to trap Jesus, He never condemns the woman "caught in the very act" nor even her accusers. He simply reminds them (and us) that all are sinful and as such, we have no ground on which to condemn anyone else for their sin. "Is there no one to condemn you, neither do I condemn you. Go your way and sin no more." He does not condemn her, however, neither does he condone her sin. He tells her to stop her sin and to avoid it in the future. She was guilty and according to the law of Moses she was deserving of stoning to death. But Jesus displayed the mercy and grace of God just a few days later by forgiving her and then dying on the cross giving His own life to pay the penalty for her sin and ours.

We believe Jesus-Followers are to avoid condemning others for their sin, yet they are not condone sin either. We all bear the penalty and consequences of our own sin individually. Understanding that, we all the more offer the love and grace of Jesus to one another.

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June 2018