

## **Bend Ministerial Association Statement on Marriage**

*June 4, 2015*

The pastors and ministry workers of the Bend Ministerial Association affirm the following concerning marriage, as stated in the Bend Ministerial Association Statement of Faith, Article 6:

We affirm that God's standard for sexual conduct set forth in the Bible is celibacy for unmarried persons and faithfulness in marriage between husband and wife.

We deny any view that seeks to legitimize any form of sexual conduct outside of marriage between husband and wife.

The original design by God for man and woman in His image is a union of one man and one woman in marriage, or celibacy as a single person as was our Lord Jesus Christ. God's design for marriage as a union between one man and one woman was confirmed by our Lord Jesus Christ when He declared, "Have you not read, that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matthew 19:4-6) Moreover, the Holy Spirit sets forth the same when He likens marriage between one man and one woman with the union that exists between Christ and his redeemed bride, the church, saying, "This is a great mystery" but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:32). Thus united in love, the husband and the wife will more and more reflect in their marriage the unity of Christ and His church.

The most important thing for a person is to know and trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, that they may experience the forgiveness of their sins and a new identity in Him. Our new identity in Christ is the well-spring of the healing of all our brokenness, including our sexuality.

### **Bend Ministerial Association Marriage Policy Statement**

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the union of a man and a woman, we will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, we will only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman.