FBCC Ethical Positions

Introduction

- This statement on the ethical positions of FBCC does not include a position on every type of sin. We believe that the bible clearly describes what sin is and we seek to uphold that. However, there are certain categories where the culture around us goes against the teachings of scripture. Christ-followers are told that the bible is wrong on these issues and that these behaviors should be celebrated.
- Therefore, on these particular issues, additional clarity is required with regard to our positions. These are written in a series of affirmations and denials with the aim of clarifying the church's position on these issues.
- The statements regarding marriage, sexuality and gender are heavily inspired by the Nashville Statement, from the Council of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (https://cbmw.org/nashville-statement). FBCC is in full agreement with the Nashville Statement.

Marriage

- We affirm that marriage is a covenant ordained by God soon after the creation of the world, and before the fall, which is to be entered into by one man and one woman for a lifelong, monogamous relationship of "oneness" in every realm of personhood (physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, etc.)
- We affirm that marriage is ultimately a picture to the relationship of Christ to the church and that believers should faithfully and dependently strive to live out this picture.
- We deny the possibility of homosexual marriage since that goes against God's design of one man and one woman. We deny the possibility of polygamous and polyamorous marriage since these go against God's design of one man and one woman.
- We deny that divorce is good and that it is a legitimate option for broken relationships. The only exceptions to this are in cases of adultery, abuse or abandonment, though if there is true repentance and a willingness on the part of both parties to heal the relationship, divorce isn't required in these cases.
- We affirm that remarriage of a person after a divorce is possible, though this should be pursued slowly and with full honesty about the situation of the previous relationship.

Sexuality

- We affirm that sexual relations are a good gift from God designed to be enjoyed by a husband and a wife solely within the covenant of a marriage union. We affirm that all sexual activity outside of marriage between one man and one woman is a sin that needs to be repented of.
- We deny that heterosexual sex either before marriage or outside of marriage is God-honoring or part of His good design.
- We deny that pornography whether viewed as a single person, or as a married person is God-honoring or part of His good design.
- We deny that homosexual relationships and homosexual activity is God-honoring and part of His good design.
- We deny that affections, desires, attraction or commitments ever justify going outside of God's good design.
- We deny that sex outside of marriage, use of pornography or homosexual activity would permanently separate someone from the kingdom of God. Like with all sin, one need only to repent and believe the good news to receive God's forgiveness and the gift of eternal life.
- We deny that approving of homosexual relationships is in line with following Christ.
- We affirm that those who experience same-sex attraction can live a full and fruitful life as Christ-followers as they, like all other believers, seek to live a Spirit-empowered pure life.
- We deny that same-sex attraction is part of God's good design or that it puts a person outside of God's redemption.

Gender

- We affirm that God created the human race, in his image, as male and female. We affirm that the distinction of male and female and their divinely ordained differences are part of God's good design in creation and is meant for the good of humanity and our flourishing.
- We affirm that men and women have equal value in the eyes of God and that both equally need to come to the Lord Jesus in repentance and faith to receive the gift of salvation.
- We affirm that a person's biological sex is ontologically intertwined with one's self-conception of themselves as male or female.
- We deny that male and female are social constructs or a result of the fall. We deny that physical anomalies or psychological conditions nullify the God-given link between a person's biological sex and their self-conception as male or female.
- We deny that approving of transgenderism is in line with following Christ.
- We affirm that those born with physical abnormalities of sex development are image bearers of God and have the same dignity and worth of all other image bearers. They are welcome to follow Jesus with their whole heart and should embrace their biological sex as much as it may be known.
- We affirm that those who have chosen to live a transgender lifestyle, and those who may have undergone procedures to alter their body, are welcome, with us all, to come to Jesus in repentance and faith, and receive the gift of God's forgiveness and eternal life, and to walk in newness of life in full obedience to Him.

Abortion

- We affirm that God is the creator of life and that life begins at the point of conception. We affirm that all children are created by God in His image and are a gift from the Lord and should be received with thanksgiving.
- We affirm that if a child is conceived through sex outside of marriage, the church will come alongside the mother and father with grace, expecting repentance and will support them toward becoming a godly family.
- We affirm that in cases of conception through rape, it is the Church's responsibility to come alongside and support the mother and child, and it is the state's responsibility to carry out justice for the rapist.
- We affirm that abortion is the intentional killing of an image bearer of God and is therefore an act of murder and is, in all cases, a sinful act.
- We affirm that followers of Christ recognize the sanctity of life, from conception to death, and that abortion is a sin at any stage of development.
- We affirm that mothers who have undergone an abortion, those who have encouraged an abortion, and those who have provided the abortion are able to come to Jesus in repentance and faith and receive his mercy, grace and forgiveness.
- We deny that approving of and supporting abortion is in line with following Christ.
- We affirm that the removal of a medically non-viable fetus (e.g. ectopic pregnancy), or the removal of a miscarried fetus is not an abortion, but the protection of the life of the mother.

Addictions*

- We affirm that God has given His Spirit to enable us to live self-controlled and upright lives despite being surrounded by addictive temptations.
- We affirm that Christ-followers are free to consume alcoholic beverages, though if someone is tempted to drink too much, we would encourage them to abstain from alcohol.
- We deny that other substances (such as marijuana and or dependency on narcotics beyond medical needs) fall in the realm of Christian freedom.
- We affirm that addictive behaviors are sinful and need to be repented of. These include, but are not limited to, alcohol, drugs (prescription or illegal), gambling, pornography.
- We affirm that those who experience any such addictions are able to come to Jesus in repentance and faith to find forgiveness, healing and the Spirit of self-control.

*We recognize that not all activities listed in this section may be qualified as "addictions" in all fields. We are using the term broadly to describe negative compulsive behaviors.