

## **POLICY**

### **Ascent Christian Academy Policy on Marriage, Transgender/Gender Identity, and Sexuality**

#### **Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality**

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) 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 intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Ascent Christian Academy as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Ascent Christian Academy families and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Ascent Christian Academy in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, or families involved in Ascent Christian Academy, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the policies and doctrines of Ascent Christian Academy.

#### **Ascent Christian Academy Transgender/Gender Identity Policy**

The Bible teaches that God made us male or female, and no matter our own feelings or confusion, we should act in accordance with the biological reality of God's good design.

Transgenderism falls short of the glory of God and is not the way to walk in obedience to Christ. We understand that following Christ means dying to ourselves (Matt. 16:24), being renewed in our minds (Rom. 12:2), and no longer walking as we once did (Eph. 4:17-18). Being "true to ourselves" is always a false choice when it means going against God's Word. The Bible states the organic unity of biological sex and gender identity. This is why male and female are (uniquely) the type of pair that can reproduce (Gen. 1:28; 2:20). It's why homosexuality—a man lying with a man as with a woman (Lev. 18:22)—is wrong. It's why the apostle Paul can speak of homosexual partnerships as deviating from the natural relations or natural function of male-

female sexual intercourse (Rom. 1:26-27). If the binary of male and female is God's idea, and if we are meant to embrace, by divine design, our biological and creational difference as men and women, then it stands to reason that the confusion of these realities would be displeasing to God. And so we see clearly in the Bible that men should not act sexually as women (Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10), that men should not dress like women (Deut. 22:5), and that when men and women embrace obviously other-gendered expressions of identity it is a disgrace (1 Cor. 11:14-15). We do not have an inalienable right to do whatever we want with our physical selves. We belong to God and should glorify him with our bodies (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

All ACA families and ACA staff must live in accordance to the above policy. To keep families, students, and staff members accountable and safe from the worldview mindset, any person, parent, student or staff member found living outside the above stated biblical principles will be asked to withdraw or leave ACA.