

# Emmanuel Faith Community Church

## Position & Commitment Statements

### Our Commitment to Marriage, Families and Individuals

*(EFCC Constitution Article V)*

We believe that God designed marriage to reflect the beauty and permanence of Christ's loving relationship with his bride, the Church (Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 19:7).

We also believe God established marriage to be a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman (Matthew 19:4-6). Therefore, we are deeply committed to preserving and strengthening marriages, families and all individuals attending our Church.

We believe that God designed and limited the expression of sexual intimacy to the exclusive boundaries of a one man and one woman marriage covenant (Genesis 2:24-25; 1Corinthians 7:3-5). We also believe that God commands that each individual abstain from any form of sexual impurity including adultery, fornication, pornography, incest, molestation, any expression of same sex relationships or the altering of ones gender by surgery or appearance, and all other biblically immoral behavior (Genesis 2:24; 19:5,13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26 -29; 7:2; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9-10; 7:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4). Therefore, we are deeply committed to enabling individuals to live a life of biblically moral behavior.

We believe that life begins at conception (Psalm 139:13-16), that every child is created by God for a purpose (Jeremiah 1:4-5; Galatians 1:15), and is a gift from God (Psalm 127:3). We also believe that God gives the primary responsibility of training children to the parent(s), being charged with giving discipline and instruction of the Lord according to biblical principles (Ephesians 6:4). Therefore, we are deeply committed to helping all families by providing biblical resources and encouragement so that all can grow to be like Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

We believe and understand that every person, including Christians, struggle living biblically pure lives. We also believe and understand that every person also struggles with the negative effect his or her failure to live a biblically pure life has on his or her life and relationships. We believe that God understands this struggle and calls believers to seek assistance from other believers and especially from Church leaders.

We believe that our pastoral and lay Church leaders have the responsibility of providing Bible-based counseling and oversight (Romans 15:14; Galatians 6:10; 2 Timothy 4:1-2; Hebrews 13:17; James 5:16). We believe that the Bible is God's manual providing guidance and instruction for faith and for life for every person (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Therefore, we are deeply committed to enabling individuals to live life according to God's will as revealed in the Bible. Toward this goal, our counseling and spiritual guidance are based on biblical principles, which in some instances may differ from current secular principles, in which instances biblical principles are followed.

## Position Statement on Marriage

The Bible is clear that the covenant of marriage is designed and defined by God as being between one man and one woman. Therefore, homosexuality, involving homosexual unions/intercourse or any other sexual activity between a man with a man or a woman with a woman, is clearly defined as sin and forbidden by God. (Romans 1:21-28, especially 26-28; 1 Corinthians 1 6:9-11, 18-20). Likewise, sexual intercourse between a man and a woman outside of marriage is forbidden by God. This heterosexual sin, as well as homosexual sin, must be confronted, leading to confession and repentance (1 Corinthians 6:17-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; Romans 12:1, 2).

Believers are called to reflect the righteousness of Jesus Christ in our actions and attitudes. This can only result from surrender to His will and allowing Him to make His Followers new creations through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:1,2).“

## Position Statement on Abortion

We believe in the sanctity of human life. Christ's love demands that we be concerned for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of all people, including the pre-born. Scripture teaches that God's creative power is present in the physical and spiritual development of pre-born children. (Psalm 139:13-17; Jeremiah 1:4-5). Medical science confirms that physical growth and personality development are under way from the earliest days of fetal development. We, therefore, condemn the rampant disregard for life that exists in the practice of abortion on demand. We urge believers to consider what God would have them do to preserve and enhance the quality of the lives of all persons, including the pre-born.