

Grace Church Position Statement

Relating to Humanity

We have been created, uniquely among all creation, in His image¹ and are to be an expression of His love,² which was clearly demonstrated in Jesus' sacrificial pouring out of himself at the cross³ and as is described in 1 Corinthians 13. We therefore believe that all human life has intrinsic value and that we are compelled by love to do all that is within our power to promote the flourishing of all people at all stages of life. We therefore affirm:

1. That our love extends to the unborn, to the elderly, and to those with limited or no capacity to produce economic value, and that we must do what we are able to protect these, who are the most vulnerable among us. For this reason, we oppose elective abortion⁴, assisted suicide, human trafficking, and devaluing of those with disabilities or infirmities, along with similar assaults on human life and dignity.
2. That both male and female have equal value before God and are equally deserving of our respect and love.
3. That we are to love people of every race, ethnicity, nation of origin, and without regard to social status, poor and rich alike.
4. That we are to love those who have spiritual beliefs that differ from ours, those who do not order their lives according to God's design, and those who oppose us.
5. That our sexuality is a gift from God for procreation⁵ and enjoyment⁶ that has been designed by God to be expressed in human relationship only in the physical union of one male and one female (as determined biologically at birth)⁷ within a lifelong marriage covenant.⁸ We believe that sexuality expressed in any other relationship is not God's design for human flourishing. We, therefore, do not encourage, condone, or participate in establishing or celebrating any marriage or union other than the lifelong marriage covenant between one male and one female.

(We can state a facility policy and pastoral policy, consistent with this position, separately.)

Relating to Government

Human government is established by God to promote justice, punish evil, and to maintain a peaceable and orderly society.^{9,10} We believe that government should enhance human flourishing and liberty, which includes protecting the freedom of all to believe as they wish and to freely practice the dictates of their faiths. Christians should pray for all who are in authority,¹¹ regardless of political position or affiliation, and be open to participate in government through voting, respectfully providing opinions and feedback to leaders, and

through their own public service. Christians should follow government-enacted laws and regulations, to the extent one can ethically do so.

Stewarding Creation

Humanity must understand “dominion over creation” not as ownership but as stewardship.¹² We have the responsibility to both harness and protect the Earth’s resources. God created the air, water, land, plants, and animals and declared them good.¹³ We are free to use and enjoy creation, not to misuse it or deny future generations of its enjoyment.

1 - Genesis 1:27, **2** - 1John 4:7-8, **3** - Romans 5:8; John 15:13, **4** - The purposeful killing of a preborn baby for the sake of terminating an unwanted pregnancy, **5** - Genesis 1:27-28, **6** - Proverbs 5:18-19; Song of Solomon, **7** - We acknowledge that in relatively rare circumstances babies are born with ambiguous sexual genitalia, such that there can be no clear gender identification. We affirm that these individuals are loved by God and equally deserving of our love. In such cases, we should strive to apply the principles of God’s design for human sexuality sensitively and empathetically to such person’s circumstance, **8** - Genesis 2:22-24; Matthew 19:4-6, **9** - Romans 13:1-7, **10** - 1Peter 2:13-17, **11** - 1Timothy 2:1-2, **12** - Genesis 1:26, **13** - Genesis 1:4-31
