

Appendix III

STATEMENT REGARDING SEXUALITY AND GENDER

1. Affirmation of Biblical Authority

We believe that in the lives of believers all matters of faith and morality must be evaluated on the basis of Scripture, which is an infallible guide. Also we believe the Bible is authoritative above any congregational ruling or opinion, and the correct ways to govern are prescribed in the Torah, the Prophets, the Writings, and the B'rit Hadashah.

The Bible speaks on many subjects, and all leadership of BES acknowledges the truth articulated in the Bible. We humbly submit to it, regardless of personal opinion and circumstance. We affirm the truth presented in the scriptures, and we must never affirm any other positions.

2. Relevant Scriptures

The following scriptures we affirm as true and authoritative. We also affirm any other scriptures from the Torah, the Prophets, the Writings, and the B'rit Hadashah which, according to their context, may fit under these topics.

Marriage and Heterosexual Behavior:

Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:2-12; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7

Homosexuality and Other Sexual Behaviors:

Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; Deuteronomy 23:17-18; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Other Topics, Such As Cross-Dressing, Gender Deviance, and Mutilation:

Genesis 1:27; Genesis 5:2; Deuteronomy 22:5; Deuteronomy 23:1; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6; 1 Corinthians 11:12

3. Articulation of Our Stance

We affirm the biblical understanding of gender, that humans are created either male or female. We affirm the biblical definition of marriage as a sacred union between one man and one woman. We hold that sexual relations are to be honored within the covenant of marriage.

Upholding these principles, we seek to compassionately minister to all members of our community according to the guidelines presented in the bible. We encourage open and respectful dialogue within our congregation regarding all matters of faith, and we aim to deepen our understanding of these topics through study, prayer, and respectful engagement.