

## **Ridgedale Baptist Church Statement on Human Sexuality**

"In light of the authority of God's Word, Ridgedale Baptist Church believes and affirms that all persons are fearfully and wonderfully made, as male and female, in the image of the eternal God. Celebrating God's design of male and female, we believe and affirm that the choice to change one's gender by surgery, or any other means, and the choice to alter one's appearance and/or behaviors to those of the opposite gender are contrary to the teachings of God's word, and such behaviors are sinful. (Gen. 1:27; Gen. 5:2; Mk. 10:6; Matt. 19:4-6; Ps. 139:14; Jude 7)

"We believe and submit to the biblical view that the only valid marriage is that which is ordained by God as a covenant relationship between one natural-born man and one natural-born woman for a life-time. In light of these truths, we affirm that sexual intimacy is God's good gift to be enjoyed exclusively within a loving, mutually respectful, covenant marriage relationship between one natural-born man and one natural-born woman. (Heb. 13:4; Gen. 2:24; Mk. 10:6-9; Eph. 5:33)

"Therefore, we believe that sexual intimacy outside of the covenant marriage relationship, and any perversions of sexual expression, are contrary to the teachings of God's word. We believe and affirm that behaviors including, but not limited to, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, pedophilia, adultery, voyeurism, exhibitionism, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's good design for sexuality. (Gal.5:16-25; Ex. 20:14, 17; Ex. 22:19; Lev. 18:7-23; 20:10-21; Rom. 1:24-28 1 Thes. 4:3-8; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 5:3; Col.3:5)

"Believing and affirming God's design for sexuality, we equally and joyfully affirm God's love, grace, and forgiveness through Jesus Christ for all persons who, having fallen short of His design, then seek His forgiveness and restoration through personal repentance." (1 John 1:9; Ps. 28:13; Ps. 32:5; Ps. 103:2-5; 1Cor. 6:9-11; Col.1:13-14; Act 3:19-20; Titus 2:11-14)