

## ***2015 IFCA International Statement on Biblical vs. Same-Sex Marriage***

The members and churches of the IFCA International maintain their historical commitment to God's Word, the Bible as the final and supreme authority in all matters of faith and practice. Morality is a matter of biblical definition, not subject to any cultural, social or political redefinition. Morality, when left to popular opinion, will drift from generation to generation, but biblical truth remains constant and absolute.

The Biblical teaching on issues of human sexuality and marriage is the final word regardless of what any human individual or human institutions, organizations or groups might contend. There is no authority that can supersede, countermand or preclude the teaching of the Word of God.

We affirm biblical, traditional and historical marriage as the uniting of one man and one woman (as genetically defined) within covenant bonds and lifelong commitment. Marriage is not open to social architecture, cultural engineering or judicial activism. God established it as His purpose at the beginning of time with Adam and Eve, demonstrated it through the rest of Scripture and reinforced it through the teachings of Jesus. God regards any sexual activity outside of this biblical definition of marriage as sinful and, therefore, so must we.

We cannot and will not recognize or endorse same-sex "marriages," nor will IFCA International churches or ministers be involved in solemnizing such "unions" either by hosting them within our churches or officiating at such ceremonies.

Any position, perspective or redefinition of marriage and sexuality that disagrees with this biblical standard, regardless of its origin or source, will be dissented and rejected.

The Bible also informs us how we are to respond to people who struggle with sin of any kind, including homosexuality. We are to possess and demonstrate God's love for sinners, a love that seeks to deliver them from their sin through the provision of Jesus Christ. We renounce common reactions such as sarcasm, mockery, ridicule, and disrespect to those engaged in sin. However, the Gospel is not, nor has it ever been, about affirming humanity in whatever expression it chooses. It is rather about the powerful grace of God toward sinners that delivers us from sin by cleansing us through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. It is impossible, therefore, to demonstrate the love of God, and at the same time, endorse, legitimize or affirm conduct or behavior that brings His condemnation on its participants.

Because we believe that the fundamental and inalienable right to religious freedom is at stake within this critical issue, we will remain loyal to God and His eternal Word regardless of the decision of any human court, regardless of how supremely men venerate it. God's expressed Word and will must remain truly supreme.

Therefore, the members and churches of the IFCA International agree to remain submissive to God rather than men; to openly reject any legal redefinition of marriage; to continue to contend for the faith; and, to affirm God's design for marriage, family and individual conduct.

## **1996 IFCA RESOLUTION AGAINST SAME SEX MARRIAGES**

WHEREAS, God created man in His own image, male and female He created them (Gen. 1:26-27); and,

WHEREAS, man and woman were created as companions for each other, their marriage creating the nucleus of a God ordained unit (Gen 2:18, 24), displaying His handiwork and revealing the mystery of the union of God with redeemed mankind, the church (Eph. 5:30-32); and,

WHEREAS, the marriage between one man and one woman is the only God-ordained pattern of biblical marriage, with any alteration of this basic unit constituting a transgression bearing dire consequences (Heb. 13:4); and,

WHEREAS, this male-female union is the cornerstone of the family, the building block of all society; and,

WHEREAS, the Bible declares homosexuality and the improper union which results from such "vile affections" as gross and grievous sin (Rom. 1:26); and,

WHEREAS, many today seek to legitimize "same sex marriages", calling upon all levels of government, both legislative and judicial, to create a legal status for their practice;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-seventh Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 28-July 3, 1996, reaffirm their commitment to the scriptural pattern of marriage between one man and one woman; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon our local, state and national legislators along with the judges of our court system to maintain current standards of marriage and recognize that any deviation from such is morally reprehensible and brings destructive forces of decay within our society; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon our church and those who minister within them to uphold the Biblical standard of marriage, and not to recognize, sanction, or perform any other form of union; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that while we view homosexuality as gross sin, we view those who are involved in it as objects of the grace of God, to be reached and won from that and other sins to the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Savior of sinners; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we make public our standard of Biblical marriage and ask our National Executive Director to send a copy of this resolution to all state and national legislatures, asking them as honored servants to maintain current laws and to enact any amendments which preserve the traditional marriage between one man and one woman.

## **2004 IFCA INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONVENTION RESOLUTION ON THE FAMILY**

WHEREAS God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society being composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption (Gen 1:26-28); and,

WHEREAS God has ordained marriage as the foundational relationship of the family (Gen 2:23-25; Matt 19:4-6); and,

WHEREAS the Bible defines marriage as the uniting of one man and one woman in an exclusive covenant commitment for a lifetime (Mk 10:6-9); and,

WHEREAS marriage is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, the means for procreation of the human race, and the platform for nurturing children (Eph 5:22-6:4); and,

WHEREAS current cultural trends, as realized in the recent decision by the highest court of Massachusetts, granting marital rights to homosexual couples, have redefined marriage and the family; and,

WHEREAS Defense of Marriage Acts (DOMA) are being challenged in various states; and,

WHEREAS the Federal Marriage Amendment under consideration in the U.S. Congress will define marriage as a union of one man and one woman;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-fifth Annual Convention of IFCA International, meeting in Merrillville, Indiana, June 21-25, 2004, reaffirm our commitment to the biblical definition of marriage and family; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we firmly oppose any anti-biblical redefining of marriage or family; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our pastors and teachers to clearly teach the biblical definition of marriage and family in the churches; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our Regional Presidents and our fellowship at large to communicate to their respective Senators and Representatives our support for the Federal Marriage Amendment; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our Executive Director to alert other like-minded faith groups to this concern; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we ask our Board of Directors to consider inserting a biblical statement on marriage and family into our Constitution and By-laws.

## **2008 IFCA International Resolution Concerning the Definition of Marriage**

WHEREAS, the definition of marriage is primarily a Biblical and moral concern rather than a civil, social, or political issue; and,

WHEREAS, Scripture defines marriage as a man leaving mother and father and being joined to his wife (Eph. 5:31; Gen. 2:24-25, Matthew 19:4-6); and,

WHEREAS, the redefinition of marriage is an emphasis in several U.S. states and a battle in the realms of public opinion, the judiciary, and political election; and,

WHEREAS, the Church, as the pillar and ground of the truth, must stand on the basis of Biblical and moral concerns (1 Tim. 3:15); and,

WHEREAS, governments are ordained by God for the punishment of evil-doers, the protection of the innocent, the defense of long-established economic, social, and civil rights that accord with Holy Scripture, and the preservation of justice and social harmony, thus governments are accountable to, and act only under the authority of an omnipotent God; and,

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all Christians both to pray for those in authority and to be salt and light in the culture in which God has placed us by humbly, peaceably, but courageously contending for Scriptural principles in the public square; and,

WHEREAS, the family is the incubator not only of faith but of citizenship and sound morals, and that public policies that undermine the institution of the family or attempt to re-define it to include homosexual couples are contrary both to Scripture and to sound reason,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the members and delegates present at the Seventy-ninth Annual Convention of IFCA International meeting in Eugene, Oregon, June 20-24, 2008, that IFCA churches and pastors stand united in the conviction that marriage is the holy union of one man and one woman for life, ordained by God Himself; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our churches and pastors teach publicly concerning the Biblical definition of marriage and refuse the immoral practice of joining homosexuals in a union falsely defined as marriage; and,

BE IF FINALLY RESOLVED that IFCA constituents, as Christian citizens, be encouraged to vote in accordance with the pressing need to uphold the biblical definition of marriage.

## **2010 IFCA INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTION ON HUMAN SEXUALITY**

**WHEREAS**, there is in our nation, even within the “Christian community,” a growing movement of sexual immorality advocating premarital sex, extra-marital sex, and homosexuality as lifestyles to be accepted as normative in our culture and society; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are those in positions of religious authority willing to yield to the demands that these immoral activities be labeled as acceptable and respectable; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Scriptures are clear that premarital and extra-marital sex are immoral and sinful (1Corinthians 6:15-20; Genesis 2:24); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Bible is clear that homosexuality is not a legitimate alternative lifestyle, but is rather a gross sin indicative of the depth of man’s rebellion against God (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10),

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the members and delegates present at the Eighty-first Annual Convention of IFCA International, meeting in Springfield, Illinois, June 28-July 2, 2010, go on record as affirming chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage as the only Biblical standard of human sexuality; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we go on record as being opposed to any movement that would recognize homosexuality as anything but gross sin; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that while we view premarital sex, extra-marital sex, and homosexuality as sin, we do view those engaged in such practices as objects of the grace of God to be reached and won to the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Savior of sinners.