

Lynden Christian School's Position Statement on Human Sexuality and Gender Identity (rev 11/2022)

Lynden Christian affirms that all human beings, male and female, are created in the image of God their Creator (Genesis 1:26-27), and therefore have inestimable value and must be treated with dignity and respect.

As a community that seeks to be an authentic biblical community, Lynden Christian Schools is committed to addressing all issues of human sexuality with grace and truth and recognizes that the most loving thing that we can do for our brothers and sisters in Christ is to graciously point them to the Truth of His Word. Understanding that God loves repentant sinners, including those who sin differently than we do, Lynden Christian School affirms the following interpretive framework regarding God's intent for human sexuality:

- A. God created two genders, male and female, determined biologically at birth (Genesis 2:18-25).
- B. The Creator's intent for human sexuality, based in creation and stated in the seventh commandment, finds its fulfillment between a man and a woman within the bond of the marriage covenant. To experience the fullness of God's loving intent, sexual experience is intended to be celebrated between a man and a woman within that covenant union (Genesis 2:22-24; Proverbs 5:18-19; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16).
- C. Hetero-sexual practice outside the covenant of marriage and all homo-sexual practice is incompatible with the will of God as revealed in scripture and is sin demanding confession and repentance. The Bible's teaching regarding unchaste behavior is faithfully summarized in Heidelberg Catechism Q&A [108](#), [109](#), and [113](#) (links provided for Q&A and scripture references).
- D. Lust, including same gender and heterosexual lust, is contrary to God's created order which reveals the brokenness of our sinful world and the effect of sin on God's perfect intent for human sexuality.
- E. None of us has measured up to God's will for our sexuality, and thus we are all in need of, and able to receive, abundant grace and forgiveness through our savior Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-10). God's expectation for our response to our failures and shortcomings regarding chastity, as well as our shortcomings in all other areas where we so often fail, is faithfully summarized in Heidelberg Catechism Questions [114](#) and [115](#) (links provided for Q&A and scripture references).
- F. We will communicate and uphold God's standards for human sexuality and gender identity with grace and truth.

In light of the above framework, Lynden Christian School commits itself to the following standards of Christian practice:

- A. Teaching, and expecting all Lynden Christian community members to model and abide in practice by, the Creator's intent for human sexuality and gender as stated above.
- B. Exercising patient understanding of and compassion for all students struggling with any issue of sexuality or gender identity.
- C. Striving for an environment that is free from discrimination.
 - a. No student will be expelled or excluded based on his or her same gender attraction
 - b. No students will be pressured to disclose such attraction
- D. Insisting upon an atmosphere that is a safe learning environment for all students.

- i. Physical assault, harassment (snide remarks, jokes, innuendo, slogans, disparaging terms), or bullying on the basis of one's sexual orientation will not be tolerated. This policy extends to gestures, emails, text messages, notes and any other written or electronic form of threat or harassment.
 - ii. Gay or anti-gay militancy is regarded as incompatible with Christian community and therefore will not be tolerated.
 - iii. Inappropriate public displays of affection between couples will not be allowed.
- E. Providing all students with the following:
 - i. A compassionate venue in which to engage in authentic dialogue about the very real, confusing, and often painful issues related to human sexuality and gender identity.
 - ii. School counselors, in partnership with the family and the student's church whenever possible, who will offer biblical guidance, resources and options for referral for counseling.
 - iii. The assurance of confidentiality from peers or other staff except in instances of suicidal ideation or other self-harming behaviors.
 - iv. An assurance that the dignity of all students and families will be guarded.
- F. Acknowledging our own human frailty and dependence upon Christ for his humility, grace, and wisdom in our considerations of human sexuality, seeking always to love one another as He has loved us.

Lynden Christian Schools has established this Position Statement on Human Sexuality and Gender Identity for a variety of reasons:

- a. To give clarity for staff, students, and families around these topics
- b. To provide direction for instruction around these topics
- c. To protect the organization legally, particularly in areas of employment and enrollment
- d. To direct policy making