

POSITION PAPER

Human Sexuality

Introduction

Human sexuality is not merely a biological reality, social construct, psychological experience, or cultural conversation. According to Scripture, sexuality is part of God’s intentional design for humanity and therefore must be understood within the broader framework of creation, covenant, holiness, identity, redemption, and the Kingdom of God.

At Church Xtended, we believe questions surrounding sexuality must be approached with both biblical conviction and Christlike compassion. The Church is called neither to compromise biblical truth in order to accommodate culture, nor to weaponise truth in ways that diminish the dignity, worth, and humanity of people.

The Christian understanding of sexuality begins not with human preference or cultural trends, but with God’s revelation in Scripture.

This position paper outlines Church Xtended’s theological convictions concerning human identity, marriage, sexual ethics, holiness, grace, pastoral care, and the relationship between biblical authority and contemporary cultural discourse.

Humanity Created in the Image of God

The foundation of biblical anthropology is the doctrine of the imago Dei: humanity created in the image and likeness of God.

Genesis 1:27 states:

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Human identity therefore originates not from autonomous self-definition, social consensus, or internal desire, but from divine creation.

Every human being possesses inherent dignity, worth, value, and sacredness because humanity reflects the image of God.

Church Xtended therefore affirms the equal dignity and value of every person regardless of background, struggle, temptation, past sin, ethnicity, social status, or personal history.

At the same time, Scripture teaches that human identity has been profoundly affected by the Fall. Human desires, affections, perceptions, and moral inclinations have all been impacted by sin.

Consequently, human experience alone cannot serve as the ultimate authority for moral truth.

God's Design for Marriage and Sexuality

Church Xtended believes God designed sexual intimacy to exist exclusively within the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman.

From creation onward, Scripture consistently presents marriage as:

- covenantal;
- lifelong;
- faithful;
- complementary;
- and reflective of Christ's relationship with the Church.

Genesis 2:24 declares:

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Jesus Himself reaffirmed this creation order in Matthew 19, grounding marriage not in cultural custom but in divine intention.

Sexual intimacy therefore is not merely recreational, emotional, or transactional. It carries covenantal, spiritual, relational, and theological significance.

Church Xtended believes:

- marriage is instituted by God;
- sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage;

- faithfulness within marriage reflects covenantal love;
 - and biblical sexual ethics apply equally to all believers.
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The Fall and Disordered Desire

Scripture teaches that sin has affected every dimension of human life, including sexuality.

As a result of humanity's rebellion against God, human desires no longer function perfectly according to God's original design.

The Bible consistently presents sexual brokenness as part of the broader human condition under sin.

This includes:

- adultery;
- fornication;
- pornography;
- lust;
- same-sex sexual behaviour;
- promiscuity;
- exploitation;
- and every form of sexual immorality condemned by Scripture.

Church Xtended therefore rejects selective moralism that isolates certain sins while ignoring others.

All people stand in need of God's grace, redemption, forgiveness, sanctification, and transformation.

The Gospel does not teach that some individuals are uniquely sinful while others are inherently righteous. Rather, Scripture declares that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Holiness and Christian Sexual Ethics

The New Testament consistently calls believers to sexual holiness.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 states:

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.”

Biblical sexual ethics are therefore not arbitrary restrictions imposed by God, but expressions of His wisdom, holiness, and love.

Church Xtended believes Christian discipleship necessarily includes surrendering every area of life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, including sexuality, relationships, desires, and personal conduct.

The call to holiness applies universally to all believers regardless of personal temptation, orientation, emotional experience, or relational history.

Holiness is not achieved through self-righteousness or moral superiority, but through surrender to Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

Truth and Compassion

Church Xtended believes truth and compassion must never be separated.

Jesus consistently demonstrated both unwavering commitment to truth and profound compassion toward broken humanity.

The Church therefore must not respond to questions of sexuality with hostility, mockery, fear, cruelty, or self-righteous condemnation.

Likewise, the Church cannot redefine biblical truth in order to align with changing cultural norms.

True Christian compassion does not affirm everything uncritically; it lovingly points people toward Christ, repentance, healing, transformation, and truth.

Church Xtended is committed to cultivating a church culture where:

- every person is treated with dignity;
 - every person is welcomed with compassion;
 - every person is invited toward discipleship and transformation in Christ;
 - and biblical truth is upheld with grace and humility.
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Temptation, Desire, and Identity

Church Xtended recognises the distinction between temptation and sin.

Scripture teaches believers may experience temptation without yielding to sinful behaviour.

At the same time, Christianity does not ultimately ground identity in sexual desire, temptation, attraction, orientation, or emotional experience.

The believer's primary identity is found in union with Christ.

Therefore, while modern culture increasingly encourages individuals to define themselves according to sexual identity categories, Scripture calls believers to understand themselves first and foremost as those created and redeemed by God.

Church Xtended encourages believers struggling in any area of sexuality to pursue:

- biblical discipleship;
- prayer;
- accountability;
- community;
- pastoral care;
- and ongoing spiritual formation.

The Church must become a place of both holiness and healing.

Marriage, Family, and Covenant

Church Xtended believes marriage and family remain foundational institutions established by God.

Strong marriages and healthy families contribute to:

- spiritual formation;
- community stability;
- discipleship;
- generational flourishing;
- and societal wellbeing.

Because marriage reflects covenantal realities rooted in God's design, the Church must actively strengthen, support, and disciple marriages and families.

This includes:

- premarital discipleship;
- marital support;

- pastoral care;
 - family strengthening;
 - and biblical teaching concerning relationships.
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Cultural Shifts and Biblical Authority

Church Xtended recognises contemporary society increasingly approaches sexuality through frameworks shaped by individual autonomy, expressive identity, personal fulfilment, and cultural relativism.

While cultural conversations continue to evolve, the Church remains accountable ultimately to the authority of Scripture rather than cultural consensus.

Christian doctrine cannot be established by political movements, social pressure, public opinion, or ideological trends.

The Church must therefore maintain theological faithfulness while engaging culture with wisdom, humility, clarity, and love.

Church Xtended rejects both:

- cultural accommodation that compromises biblical conviction;
 - and reactionary hostility that abandons Christlike compassion.
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Pastoral Responsibility

Church Xtended believes the Church has a pastoral responsibility to walk alongside people with grace, truth, patience, and discipleship.

The Church must become a place where people can:

- confess struggles honestly;
- pursue spiritual growth;
- receive pastoral care;
- experience accountability;
- and encounter the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel offers not merely behaviour modification, but redemption, healing, forgiveness, and transformation through Christ.

No person is beyond the reach of God's grace.

Church Xtended's Position

Church Xtended believes:

- humanity is created in the image of God as male and female;
- marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman;
- sexual intimacy belongs within the covenant of marriage;
- all people possess equal dignity and worth before God;
- all humanity is affected by sin and stands in need of redemption;
- believers are called to holiness and sexual integrity;
- truth and compassion must remain inseparable;
- the Church must uphold biblical authority while ministering with grace and humility.

We are committed to being a Christ-centred community marked by both theological conviction and compassionate discipleship.

Conclusion

Human sexuality ultimately cannot be understood apart from God's design, humanity's fallenness, and Christ's redemptive work.

The Gospel does not merely call people away from sin; it calls people into transformed life in Christ.

At Church Xtended, we believe Jesus Christ remains both full of grace and full of truth. Therefore, we seek to uphold biblical holiness while extending genuine compassion, dignity, and pastoral care to every person.

Our desire is not merely moral conformity, but authentic transformation into Christlikeness through the power of the Gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit.