## **Statement on the Institution of Marriage**

God is truth and God's truth is firmly rooted and grounded in His immutable Nature and Being; it is not a construction of men; it is not variable, nor relative, nor dependent upon social or cultural context. God has made His truth known through Holy Scriptures. Among the truths that God has declared is the truth that the institution of marriage has been created by Him and that it is ordained and defined by Him to be the lifelong union of one man and one woman (Genesis 1-3; Matthew 19:5-6).

Homosexuality, being unnatural desire, is not something to be celebrated but something from which Christ wants to redeem people by the great healing and restoring power of his grace (Romans 1:24-27; I Corinthians 6:9).

God's ordinance concerning marriage is binding upon all mankind in all places and at all times; it cannot be altered by legislative, judicial or cultural action. It is possible to deviate from God's Word, but it is not possible to change it. God has ordained civil authorities to the end that good (as defined by Him) may be encouraged and defended and evil (as defined by Him) may be suppressed and punished (Romans 13:1-7). "God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). God will hold those whom He has placed in authority accountable for their actions, and He has declared:

Woe to those who call evil good And good evil, Who put darkness for light And light for darkness, Who put bitter for sweet And sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And shrewd in their own sight! (Isaiah 5:20)

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