

WestGate Church's Position on Homosexual Issues
Revised March 12, 2004

WestGate Church will speak about sexuality with love and concern for human dignity. We are committed to boldly speaking truth¹ based on sound scriptural principals concerning all issues related to human sexuality, including homosexuality. We will always speak in a manner that demonstrates our authentic, deeply-held conviction that all people are loved by their Creator.

God has set the standard for human sexual relationships and marriage. This standard has been revealed through scripture. God has created sexual relationships to be enjoyed only between a man and a woman joined together for life in marriage.² All other expressions of human sexuality are prohibited by God. Therefore, we believe that homosexual behavior is contrary to God's will for human sexuality³, as are sexual relationships before marriage, incest⁴, pedophilia⁵, adultery,⁶ prostitution⁷, and polygamy.⁸

All seekers are welcome at WestGate Church. We believe that Jesus came into the world to save people, not condemn them.⁹ As He offered forgiveness of sins to all who would believe in Him, so WestGate Church offers fellowship to all people who are seeking a relationship with God, regardless of individual backgrounds or past experiences.¹⁰

WestGate Church will walk beside any person desiring a righteous relationship with God. WestGate Church offers fellowship to men and women struggling with the sin of homosexual behavior or the temptation of same-sex attraction. We commit to walking alongside any person who desires support in moving away from a life of sin and toward a life of sincere repentance¹¹. We call on all men and women to live in right standing with God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.¹²

Homosexuals can change. We believe that a homosexual orientation is a deeply personal issue and has complicated and diverse roots for each individual. But it can be changed through the power and authority of Jesus Christ!¹³ Jesus can and has healed the sexual orientations of men and women miraculously. More often this transformation will require time, combined with true repentance and faith,¹⁴ and the support and resources of a loving church community.¹⁵

WestGate Church will advocate scriptural principles in law, education, and entertainment. WestGate Church stands in opposition to legislation¹⁶, cultural expressions,¹⁷ and educational programs¹⁸ that offer encouragement or approval to homosexual behavior and lifestyles, while respecting the God-given dignity of every human being¹⁹.

¹ Proverbs 12:19

² Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:18, 23-24, Mark 10:6-9, Ephesians 5:31

³ Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 1 Timothy 1:9-10

⁴ Leviticus 20:17

⁵ Matthew 18:6

⁶ Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 20:10,

⁷ Leviticus 19:29, Proverbs 5: 3-5

⁸ Deuteronomy 17:17,

⁹ John 3:17, John 12:47, Romans 10:13-14, 1 Timothy 1:15

¹⁰ Matthew 9:12-13, Matthew 22:36-40, Romans 14:13,

¹¹ Isaiah 53:6, 1 John 1:9

¹² Acts 2:21, Romans 3:22-23, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Galatians 5:16-26

¹³ 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

¹⁴ Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

¹⁵ Acts 20:35, 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

¹⁶ Matthew 5:17-18

¹⁷ Exodus 23:24, Daniel 1:5-8

¹⁸ Proverbs, 22:6, Matthew 18:6

¹⁹ John 3:16