

# Biblical Living Statements

## Human Sexuality

God designed sexual intimacy to be experienced exclusively within a marriage between one man and one woman (Matthew 19:3-9, 1 Corinthians 7:8-9, Hebrews 13:4).

Consequently, any type of sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful. The Bible also teaches that same-sex sexual activity is also sinful (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Timothy 1:8-11). However, despite our sinfulness and brokenness, Jesus can restore and renew us by His grace as we follow His design for our sexuality.

Jesus taught that engaging in lust is adultery of the heart (Matt 5:27-30). In a culture saturated with pornography and explicit content, we are responsible for guarding our hearts and protecting our witness (Proverbs 4:23). Pornography is any depiction of sexual activity in literature, art, or films that is consumed for the purpose of arousal or pleasure. To view pornography is to sin against God and others by viewing people, made in God's image, lustfully. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Galatians 5:19-21).

Because we want to glorify God with our bodies, we dress in a way that honors him. Our bodies are a temple, or a dwelling place of God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). We are called to dress in "respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control" (1 Timothy 2:9). Our goal should be for our bodies to glorify Christ in us, not our sexuality.

## Marriage and Family

Marriage is a picture of Christ's relationship with His bride, the Church. God designed marriage to be a lifelong and monogamous covenant between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:22-33). The Bible teaches that there are only two grounds for divorce: sexual infidelity (Matthew 5:32) and abandonment (1 Corinthians 7:15). Remarriage is only permissible in cases of a biblically valid divorce (Matthew 5:31-32). Believers are called to reconciliation, including in our marriages. We should be committed to restoration of the marriage relationship whenever it is possible, as God models in His relationship with us (Hosea; 1 Corinthians 7:10-14).

Since we are made in the image of God (Gen 1:27), human life has sacred value, beginning at conception. God values life in the womb (Psalm 139:13-16, Isaiah 49:1, Jeremiah 1:4-5), and we oppose abortion because we protect what God values. Children are a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3), and one of the greatest ways we serve God is by teaching our children to love and follow Jesus. Disciple-making in the home is a responsibility God clearly gives parents (Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Ephesian 6:4). Jesus loves children, values their faith, and wants them to follow him (Luke 18:15-17). There is no greater gift we can give our children than a lasting relationship with their Savior.

## Use of Language

Scripture teaches that the tongue has the power of life and death (Proverbs 18:21) and that controlling the tongue is essential to the pursuit of holiness (James 3:4). Our language should encourage, build up, and give grace to those who hear (1 Thessalonians 5:11, Ephesians 4:29). Because we want to be a community where trust and confidence are abundant, we avoid gossip. Gossip is always sinful and it can destroy reputations and trust (James 4:11; Proverbs 10:18, 16:28; 18:8, 26:20; Psalm 34:13). We embrace healthy conflict resolution, as taught by Jesus in Matthew 18. We also ensure that we are not using our words for any other kind of unwholesome talk, such as profanity. The Bible teaches us not to use our words for filthiness, foolish talk or crude joking (Ephesians 5:4). Jesus says that “out of an abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34). Our purity of speech should reflect our purity of heart.

## Substances

Our bodies have been redeemed by Jesus, and they are now a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). We must be cautious of what substances we put into our bodies and obedient in how we use our bodies. We are also taught to be self-controlled and sober-minded (1 Thessalonians 5:6, 1 Peter 4:7). We must throw off our old ways and live into the new life that we have in Christ.

The Bible teaches that drunkenness is sinful (Romans 13:13, 1 Corinthians 5:11, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:18) and that alcohol is often dangerous (Proverbs 20:1, 23:29-35). Foundry’s leadership recommends that we avoid alcohol entirely, to guard our own witness and to protect those who may be tempted to an unhealthy relationship with alcohol (Romans 14:20-21). We also believe that tobacco use, vaping, and recreational drug use are spiritually dangerous, as they create addiction and can cause us to not be of sober mind. Any addiction can become a stronghold of the enemy, so we should keep our lives free from addictions.

We prioritize making sure we don’t cause one another to stumble; in our community, we have others who have wrestled with addiction and we want to be sure that we don’t put any hindrance in their walk with the Lord (Romans 14:13). As God’s family, we are mindful of each other’s struggles and bear each other’s burdens.

## Stewardship

Everything belongs to God; we only manage it (Psalm 24:1). Scripture is clear that we must be free from the love of money (Matthew 6:24, Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:10). We glorify God when we prioritize serving others with our money, rather than spending it on ourselves or saving it for our own futures. Excessive consumption, hoarding, and gambling are all symptomatic of a love of money or material possessions, which Scripture warns against.

As Christians, we are called by God to be sacrificially generous with our money to grow His Kingdom. We learn to be generous by following the biblical principle of the tithe—giving 10% of our income back to God through the local church (Genesis 28:22, Malachi 3:7-12, Acts 2:45, 4:34-35). The tithe is a baseline for our generosity, and we should always seek to be generous and cheerful givers (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

Managing our time is also essential to being a disciple of Jesus. Our time management should reflect Jesus' priorities: time alone with God, time with other believers, and time serving and ministering to others. We guard ourselves against spending our time pursuing the pleasures of this world, understanding that our lives are brief and only the eternal matters (1 John 2:15-17, Luke 12:13-21).

## Media

Our lives can quickly become saturated with the world's perspectives and priorities through the media we consume, from television to music to social media. As citizens of the Kingdom of God, we must avoid content that trivializes or blasphemes God or that glamorizes sin (such as violence, sensuality, pornography, profanity, or the occult). Rather than pushing the boundary to indulge our flesh, we flee from temptation and seek to set our mind on the things above, not the things that are on earth (Col 3:2). The Bible challenges us to focus on things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable (Philippians 4:8). We should carefully evaluate the media we consume with those criteria in mind.

## Spiritual Practices

We recognize the reality of demonic spiritual forces that are opposed to God, are seeking to destroy God's people, and are influencing and deceiving the world (2 Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:1-2, 6:12). We know our culture is susceptible to Satan's temptations, so we actively combat them in our own lives through the armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-17). We fully trust in the power of Jesus to defend us, and we engage in spiritual warfare against the work of our spiritual enemies.

Because we recognize the reality of the demonic, we must completely avoid all new age and occult practices—such as astrology, eastern meditation, yogic practices, psychics, crystals, tarot cards, and manifesting—which are steeped in the demonic and give Satan a foothold in our lives. Such practices have no place in the life of a Christian (Acts 19:19). Any attempt to access a spiritual power other than Jesus is spiritually dangerous. We turn to Jesus as the only one who has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18), and we trust Him exclusively rather than trying to manipulate spiritual forces that are beyond our control.