

# Scripture, Sexual Morality and the Ministry of Church on the Rock

*A Call to Righteousness, Repentance, and Kindness*

**Church on the Rock is committed to speaking clearly and boldly<sup>1</sup> about sexual issues while maintaining a posture of love and respect for the dignity of people<sup>2</sup>.** We are committed to absolute moral truth as revealed through a sound interpretation of Scripture. At the same time, we commit to conducting ourselves in a kindness that is consistent with our belief that God loves all people<sup>3</sup>.

**God has set absolute and unchanging standards for sexual purity in Scripture.** Sex is a God-given pleasure to be enjoyed only between one man and one woman who live in the covenant of marriage<sup>4</sup>. Homosexual behavior is contrary to God's plan for sexuality<sup>5</sup>, as is sex outside of marriage (fornication)<sup>6</sup>, lust and pornography<sup>7</sup>, incest<sup>8</sup>, pedophilia<sup>9</sup>, adultery<sup>10</sup>, prostitution<sup>11</sup>, and polygamy<sup>12</sup>.

**Church on the Rock's people are accountable before God to live in sexual purity according the Scripture.** When we fall short of that, personal repentance is in order. Judgment begins with God's people first<sup>13</sup>, and those who point to the sins of others must be sure that they have first cleared themselves<sup>14</sup>. At the same time, our imperfections must not keep us from confronting sin<sup>15</sup>. We are bound as the church to be salt and light in society, and we must speak the truth in love to those who are willing to listen<sup>16</sup>.

**We advocate principles compatible with Scripture and traditional morality in law, education, and entertainment.** We gladly acknowledge that in our free society, each person has the right to choose obedience or disobedience to Scripture. At the same time, we stand in opposition to laws<sup>17</sup>, cultural expressions<sup>18</sup>, or educational programs<sup>19</sup> that intrude upon time-honored institutions or encourage immoral behavior.

**We believe that all people, including homosexuals, can be freed from the control of sexual sin through the power of the Holy Spirit<sup>20</sup>.** Though this can happen miraculously and instantaneously, more often this transformation requires a process of strong prayer, repentance, faith in the Word of God<sup>21</sup>, and the support of a loving family and church community<sup>22</sup>.

**For that reason, Church on the Rock welcomes all who desire a righteous relationship with God.** In His kindness, Jesus came into the world to save people, not condemn them<sup>23</sup>. In that spirit, we seek to encourage anyone who desires to move away from a life of sin and toward a life of holiness<sup>24</sup>. We call on all men and women to live in right standing with God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as evidenced by a lifestyle of personal repentance and obedience<sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Proverbs 12:19

<sup>2</sup> 1 Peter 2:17

<sup>3</sup> John 3:16-17

<sup>4</sup> Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:18, 23-24, Mark 10:6-9, Ephesians 5:31

<sup>5</sup> Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 1 Timothy 1:9-10

<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:9

<sup>7</sup> 1 John 2:16

<sup>8</sup> Leviticus 20:17

<sup>9</sup> Matthew 18:6

<sup>10</sup> Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 20:10

<sup>11</sup> Leviticus 19:29, Proverbs 5:3-5

<sup>12</sup> Deuteronomy 17:17

<sup>13</sup> 1 Peter 4:17

<sup>14</sup> Matthew 7:5

<sup>15</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

<sup>16</sup> 2 Timothy 4:1-5

<sup>17</sup> Matthew 5:17-18

<sup>18</sup> Exodus 23:24, Daniel 1:5-8

<sup>19</sup> Proverbs 22:6, Matthew 18:6

<sup>20</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

<sup>21</sup> Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

<sup>22</sup> Acts 20:35, 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

<sup>23</sup> John 3:17, John 12:47, Romans 10:13-14, 1 Timothy 1:15

<sup>24</sup> Isaiah 53:6, 1 John 1:9

<sup>25</sup> Acts 2:21, Romans 3:22-23, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Galatians 5:16-26