

# LIFE PACIFIC COLLEGE

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## **What We Believe: Human Sexuality Foundational Beliefs and Policies**

Life Pacific College's stance regarding sexual orientation and gender identity should be understood in relation to LPC's values. These values are:

- Scripture as our authoritative guide for faith and practice and the foundation for how we think, learn, live, and minister. (2 Tim. 3:16)
- Grace-based community exemplified by excellence organizationally, and Christ-like character individually. (Eph. 2:11-22; John 15; Romans 8:28-30; Gal. 5:22-25/Eph. 5:15-20)
- Foursquare heritage and its appeal for moderation in doctrine and practice, a Spirit-empowered lifestyle, and an interdenominational mission to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. (Titus 1:7-9; Eph. 4:11-13, Acts 1:4-8)
- Global awareness displayed through valuing diversity, understanding our place in the world, the far-reaching impact of decisions and actions, and innovatively engaging the world (I Cor. 12:12-31; Matt 28:19-20; John 17:15-19)
- These values frame our dialogue regarding SOGI in the follow ways:
- In keeping with our value on Scripture, we believe we must yield to the guidance of Scripture, interpreted in its historical, cultural, literary, and canonical context in addressing sexual orientation and gender identity.
- In keeping with our value of a grace-based community, we recognize that only by grace can we live Christ like lives, but that such grace is available through the power of the Spirit to demonstrate Christ's humility, holiness, and submission regardless of our sexual orientation or gender identity.
- In keeping with our Foursquare heritage of moderation in doctrine we will seek to avoid extremism in our responses to these topics and the persons involved, looking always for ways to respond that do not hinder but rather advance the spread of the Good News regarding Jesus Christ.
- In keeping with our value for global awareness, we recognize and respect perspectives and interpretations<sup>1</sup> on these topics that differ from our own. Likewise, we value the diversity of the

Church where people across the SOGI spectrum who are committed to living for Christ find love, acceptance, and forgiveness. We acknowledge that the decisions we make and the practices we employ in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity have far-reaching impact in our world and community.

In addition, we believe it is necessary to specify two assumptions, displayed in the position statement that follows, we hold in relation to interpreting Scripture:

- Scripture must be interpreted within its context and, thus, may not directly parallel the context and issues in which we find ourselves. Regardless, since Scripture is our authoritative guide we seek to apply principles embedded in the biblical text to our context.
- We must consider the whole of Scripture rather than rely simply on isolated texts. A singular text may apply only to one type of situation but if Scripture has a consistent voice on an issue it is more likely to yield principles that transcend context and culture.

### **Biblical/Theological Position**

LPC's biblical/theological position on sexual orientation and gender identity topics is formed around four areas for theological development: the creation of humanity, marriage and sexual activity, humanity's fall, and living in grace and hope. These areas provide principles for guiding pastoral care of students and staff, as well as, for establishing policies and practices. *See SOGI Position Paper*

- We believe in the biblical definition of marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman.
- We believe we are called to love God and love our neighbors.

### **Statement on marriage**

The College defines marriage as the exclusive, legally-binding, covenantal relationship, intended to be permanent, between one man and one woman, established by God for the welfare and happiness of humankind, to mirror his love for us in Christ, to refine our character, to allow for joyful participation with God in the creative process through procreation, to secure the stability necessary for the nurture of children produced by the marital union, and to reflect the unity of the triune God.

## **Statement on gender**

All official student data (including, but not limited to admissions applications, enrollment data, alumni records, and transcripts) and decisions (including, but not limited to housing assignments and the application of other residential policies) will reflect a student's gender at birth.

## **I. Religious Freedom**

We agree with the CCCU's opinion that the Supreme Court will safeguard the First Amendment, including religious freedom as a fundamental right. Expanded marriage or gender orientation rights do not diminish full protections for religious individuals and organizations to exercise their beliefs. We believe that the tax-exempt status and religious hiring rights of religious institutions will be protected when they advance the religious mission of a college or university.

## **II. Admissions and Enrollment**

LPC does not discriminate in its admission policies based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The College is open to any potential student who meets the entrance requirements in terms of GPA and Christian commitment and who is willing to abide by the College's Community Life Agreement, which establishes behavioral standards for students in keeping with the biblical/theological and pastoral statements above.

Furthermore, in keeping with our biblical/theological statement, the College maintains the view that all official student data (including, but not limited to admissions applications, enrollment data, alumni records, and transcripts) and decisions (including, but not limited to housing assignments and the application of other residential policies) will reflect a student's gender at birth. LPC recognizes that there are biological conditions (for instance, persons born with both male and female genitalia) that complicate designation of biological sex at birth.

ALL Students: The college does not exclude students from applying or attending Life Pacific College based on sexual orientation or gender identity. However, students are informed of the college's policies prior to admissions and are expected to sign a statement of faith and student life agreement that are consistent with the religious beliefs of the institution.

ALL Students: If an applicant's values differ from LPC, the person may want to consider other college communities that offer a better fit.

Undergraduate Students: Once enrolled, students must hold to the student life agreement. If a student chooses to not live within this framework, the college considers each matter in a thorough, respectful, and grace-filled way on a case-by-case basis. Housing assignments are based on one's gender assignment at birth.

Grad/Adult Students: Graduate and adult professional students come to the college at a different stage of their lives but are informed of the college's policies. The college addresses misconduct on campus when contrary to LPC's values and beliefs, and off campus only when the behavior poses a threat to the safety and well-being of others.