

Statement on Marriage, Discipleship, and Christian Discipline

Rosewood Church remains committed to the biblical viewpoint of relationships. That is, God has given us marriage as a shared gift between a man and a woman, and sex outside of a monogamous marriage relationship is not a part of God's plan for healthy unions. Therefore, the Board of Elders will not approve marriages other than those that are between one man and one woman.

In the model of Christ, we believe it is important to strike a balance between accepting people as they are and encouraging them to live by Christian standards of fidelity, forgiveness, and growth. We embrace the challenge of Christian ministry to love all people and support the faith development of anyone who is part of Rosewood Church. We do not want to discourage people from attending worship because they are failing to live up to God's standard since we all fail to do so in some ways. We confess that we (along with all Christians) are sinners saved by grace.

However, the Board of Elders has the responsibility for Christian discipline to promote the purity of the church and to redeem and restore those who are living in sin. Therefore, whenever we become aware that a member is engaged in behavior that is contrary to the teaching of Scripture, we will follow the teaching of Scripture with regard to discipline (Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15) and the RCA Disciplinary Procedures as appropriate.

Because elders and deacons lead our church according to the Bible, a higher standard of behavior will be expected so that nothing can stand in the way of their ordained responsibility. We believe that unrepentant sin that brings dishonor to Christ disqualifies a person from any leadership positions in the church. Those who engage in such behavior will not be considered for leadership positions and leaders who engage in unrepentant sin may be asked to step down from leadership or be removed from office by the Board of Elders with the goal of healing and restoration.