

Landmark Church Statement of Faith Regarding Final Authority, Sanctity of
Human Life, Salvation, Marriage & Family

The Landmark Church is a local congregation of the church of Christ carrying out a mission of leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, and the savior of all those who belong to the body of faith (Ephesians 4:15-16, Col. 1:18). It is our shared vision to be a community of believers committed to showing Christ's love, by word and deed, to those experiencing life's struggles, for we believe that to love God and to love others is His greatest commandment for us (Matthew 22:34-40). By doing this, we seek to become Christ's ambassadors allowing God's grace to make an appeal through us to be reconciled to Him in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20).

We believe that in order to carry out the mission of leading people into a growing relationship with Christ, it is imperative to speak with clarity regarding these important matters of faith. In an effort to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical witness to the church's membership, guests, and the community, it is imperative that all persons who are employed by, volunteer with, or are members of the Landmark church, shall abide by the following statements as matters of faith by which the Landmark church shall be directed, and, as representatives of the Landmark church, shall conduct themselves in accordance with them.

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and conduct for the Landmark church of
Christ

We believe the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God. The Bible speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind and is the sole and final source of all that we believe (2 Timothy 3:16). The Landmark church of Christ is autonomous in its governance. It is an independent church, free from any regulation or control by a higher church body, regional office or collection of other churches, including other churches of Christ.

The Landmark church elders are the final decision makers regarding the application of the Bible's meaning as it relates to the practices of the Landmark church of Christ (doctrine, conduct, program activities and facility use) (Acts 14:23, 1 Peter 5:2).

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted the local church with the authority and responsibility to correct members for sin or doctrinal error, with the goal of restoration and reconciliation of God and man (Galatians 6:1). We believe that this responsibility and authority to take caring corrective action is ultimately entrusted to the elders at Landmark and is to follow Biblical patterns (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 1 Corinthians 2:7-8; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 2:15-3:11; and 2 John 7-11.)

Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God, in His image (Genesis 1:26-28). Therefore, human life is of intrinsic value in all its dimensions regardless of ability, age or health. Accordingly, all persons are worthy of compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, orientation, or ability (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Christ's example calls all believers to treat all persons with humility, gentleness and patience, and to bear with one another in love (Ephesians 4:1-2).

Because we are woven together in the image of God by the hand of God, we believe the church is called upon to defend, protect, and value all human life from conception to death (Psalm 139:13-16).

Salvation

We believe that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We believe that by His grace, God offers redemption, restoration, and reconciliation to all who repent of their sin, and confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. (Acts 3: 19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6: 9-11).

We believe that redemption, restoration and reconciliation in Christ is a gift of love accepted by faith through baptism (immersion in water), in which believers identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and receive the gift of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; Colossians 2:12; Ephesians 2:8).

Marriage and Family

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, yet complementary, genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 19:4-6).

We believe that God has established marriage as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman, both in their gender as created by God. This Biblically recognized marriage between a man and a woman, in their created gender, is the only marriage Landmark will recognize. We believe that all sexual activity outside this marriage relationship and any form of sexual immorality does not build up the body of Christ (Genesis 2:24-25; Exodus 20:14, 17; Exodus 22:19; Matthew 19:4-9; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 15-20; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Jude 7).

We believe that marriage is a union in which Christ's love for the church is made visible (Ephesians 5:25-33) and in which children, if the union is so blessed, are nurtured and brought up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:1-4).

We also believe that God has gifted some individuals with the ability to live for Him without being bound in marriage 1 Corinthians 7: 1-9 and Matthew 19:12.

Based on the preceding thoughts, the ministers and staff of the Landmark church of Christ shall officiate only in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the weddings performed on facilities and property of the Landmark church of Christ, will be only between one man and one woman.

In all things, we seek to be transformed by the Spirit of the Lord into His likeness so that all may see the glory of God and give Him praise (2 Corinthians 3:18).