

## **BELIEFS ON MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALTIY**

We believe that every person must be shown compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31, Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture or the policies of Wheaton Academy.

We believe that God creates each person as male or female, with the applicable gender being determined by such person's biological sex at birth, and acknowledges the rare intersex birth condition. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). We also believe it is God's design for each person to live a life that reflects and embraces this creation.

We believe marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:5). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (I Cor. 6:18, 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of God's design for marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that sexual immorality includes, but is not limited to, promiscuity, adultery, fornication, co-habitation, homosexual behavior, bisexuality, polygamy, bestiality, incest, transgender identity, gender non-conformity, non-binary gender conformity, use of pornography, or any other violation of the unique, distinct roles of male and female (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:7-23, 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 5:27-28, 15:18-20; Romans 1:21-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Colossians 3:5).We believe that any form of sexual immorality is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Wheaton Academy, a ministry of the Christian home and church, and to provide a biblical role model to the Wheaton Academy family and the greater community, it is imperative that all students, parents, and persons employed by Wheaton Academy in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers in direct ministry roles, agree to and abide by this Policy on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matt. 5:16, Phil. 2:14-16, I Thess. 5:22).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and turn from their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21, Rom. 10:9-10, I Cor. 6:9-11).

We seek to make Wheaton Academy a place where students are helped to view issues of the day through the lens of Scripture and be able to articulate their positions with both biblical clarity and Christ-like compassion (II Timothy 3:16, I Peter 3:15).