

Human Sexuality: A Biblical Perspective

First Presbyterian Church

Jackson, MS

First Pres Forum
Rev. Dr. David Strain
October 5, 2022

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“We affirm that the entire life of the believer is one of repentance. Where we have mistreated those who struggle with same-sex attraction, or with any other sinful desires, we call ourselves to repentance. Where we have nurtured or made peace with sinful thoughts, desires, words, or deeds, we call ourselves to repentance. Where we have heaped upon others misplaced shame or have not dealt well with necessary God-given shame, we call ourselves to repentance.”

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

Nevertheless, as we call ourselves to the evangelical grace of repentance (WCF 15.1), we see many reasons for rejoicing (Phil. 4:1). We give thanks for penitent believers who, though they continue to struggle with same-sex attraction, are living lives of chastity and obedience. These brothers and sisters can serve as courageous examples of faith and faithfulness, as they pursue Christ with a long obedience in gospel dependence.

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“Repentance unto life is an evangelical grace, the doctrine whereof is to be preached by every minister of the gospel, as well as that of faith in Christ” (WCF 15.1).

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved” (Phil 4:1).

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“We also give thanks for ministries and churches within our denomination that minister to sexual strugglers (of all kinds) with Biblical truth and grace. Most importantly, we give thanks for the gospel that can save and transform the worst of sinners—older brothers and younger brothers, tax collectors and Pharisees, insiders and outsiders. We rejoice in ten thousand spiritual blessings that are ours when we turn from sin by the power of the Spirit, trust in the promises of God, and rest upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life” (WCF 14.2).

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein; and acteth differently upon that which each particular passage thereof containeth; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come. But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace” (WCF 14.2).

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“We affirm that the entire life of the believer is one of repentance.” They cite the first of Martin Luther’s famous 95 Theses which reads, “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said “Repent,” he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance.” We never get past repentance. We never stop repenting. And that means that you and I must be the targets of a call to repentance as much as those who struggle with same sex sexual sin. So the study committee says, **“Where we have mistreated those who struggle with same-sex attraction, or with any other sinful desires, we call ourselves to repentance.”**

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“Where we have nurtured or made peace with sinful thoughts, desires, words, or deeds, we call ourselves to repentance.”

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“Where we have heaped upon others misplaced shame or have not dealt well with necessary God-given shame, we call ourselves to repentance.”

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

Romans 10:11 says of Christ, “whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

In **Revelation 3:18** Christ calls the church in Laodicea to repentance so that “the shame of your nakedness may not be seen.”

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things,” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

“Love covers a multitude of sins,” (1 Peter 4:8).

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

In 1 Corinthians 1:27, Paul says that God's purpose in using the weak and the foolish and the things that are not to accomplish his purpose is to shame the strong and the wise and the things that are.

Paul rebukes the Corinthians and says, "I say this to your shame..." (1 Cor. 6:5)

"Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame" (1 Cor. 15:34)

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.” (Titus 2:7)

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“Nevertheless, as we call ourselves to the evangelical grace of repentance (WCF 15.1), we see many reasons for rejoicing (Phil. 4:1).”

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.” (Phil. 4:4)

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“We give thanks for penitent believers who, though they continue to struggle with same-sex attraction, are living lives of chastity and obedience.”

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“These brothers and sisters can serve as courageous examples of faith and faithfulness, as they pursue Christ with a long obedience in gospel dependence.”

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“We also give thanks for ministries and churches within our denomination that minister to sexual strugglers (of all kinds) with Biblical truth and grace.”

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“Most importantly, we give thanks for the gospel that can save and transform the worst of sinners—older brothers and younger brothers, tax collectors and Pharisees, insiders and outsiders.”

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

“We rejoice in ten thousand spiritual blessings that are ours when we turn from sin by the power of the Spirit, trust in the promises of God, and rest upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life (WCF 14.2).”

STATEMENT 12: REPENTANCE AND HOPE

WCF 14.2: By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God Himself speaking therein; (John 4:42, 1 Thess. 2:13, 1 John 5:10, Acts 24:14) and acteth differently upon that which each particular passage thereof containeth; yielding obedience to the commands, (Rom. 16:26) trembling at the threatenings, (Isa. 66:2) and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come. (Heb. 11:13, 1 Tim. 4:8) But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace. (John 1:12, Acts 16:31, Gal. 2:20, Acts 15:11)

Human Sexuality: A Biblical Perspective

First Presbyterian Church

Jackson, MS

First Pres Forum
Rev. Dr. David Strain
October 5, 2022