**SAT-7 North America**

**Statement of Faith Concerning Marriage, Gender, Sexuality, and Sanctity of Life**

We believe the Bible teaches that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Genesis 1:26-27) Rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one biological man and one biological woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Genesis 2:18-25) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one biological man and one biological woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including without limitation adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, sex with minors, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matthew15:18-20;1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

We believe that every person must be afforded 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.

We believe that God has created mankind in His image and that human life begins at conception. It is God who uniquely forms every human being and gives special dignity, personal freedom, and individual accountability among all the works of His creation.  God created each person’s inmost being, knitting each person together in the womb of that person’s mother. (Psalm 139:13). As God’s individualized and personal creation, each person is fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14). God has ordained all the days of each person’s life before they came to be. (Psalm 139:16).

Based on Scripture, we therefore believe that from the moment of conception until natural death, every human life is sacred because every human life has been created by God, in His image and likeness. We believe that from the moment of conception every human life must be recognized, respected, and protected as having the rights of a person and the inviolable right to life. Because human life begins at the moment of conception, it is against our religious convictions to formally or materially cooperate in the abortion or other termination of unborn human life, including without limitation by surgical abortion or use of drugs, or services that have the intent, design, effect, or risk of terminating unborn human life or preventing its implantation and growth post-fertilization.