Life Coordinator Page

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Created Male and Female

From *Christian Citizenship,* 2-14-2018, by Linda Bartlett

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison and the Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, are among 20 religious leaders who have signed an open letter affirming their "commitment to marriage as the union of one man and one woman, and as the foundation of society."

The letter, "Created Male and Female: An Open Letter from Religious Leaders," was released December 15. Among the signers are representatives of the North American Lutheran Church, the Anglican Church in North America, the Orthodox Church in America, the Church of God in Christ, the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, the Presbyterian Church in America, and the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

The letter promoting "natural marriage" acknowledges that "all human beings are created by God and thereby have an inherent dignity," and that because "God created each person male or female… sexual difference is not an accident or flaw—it is a gift from God that helps draw us closer to each other and to God. What God created is good."

The letter notes that "a person's discomfort with his or her sex, or the desire to be identified as the other sex, is a complicated reality that needs to be addressed with sensitivity and truth," and recognizes that "each person deserves to be heard and treated with respect; it is our responsibility to respond to their concerns with compassion, mercy and honesty."

Warning that "children especially are harmed when they are told that they can 'change' their sex" or are "given hormones that will affect their development," the letter calls "false" and "deeply troubling" the notion "that a man can be or become a woman or vice versa…" It compels people to either go against reason—that is, to agree with something that is not true—or face ridicule, marginalization, and other forms of retaliation.

"We desire the health and happiness of all men, women, and children. Therefore, we call for policies that uphold the truth of a person's sexual identity as male or female, and the privacy and safety of all," reads the letter.

Seltz points out that "heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual… are our culture's terms. Male and female… are God's terms, even nature's terms. To start with our created identity as people of God—male and female—this is the beginning of being able to honor each other, to love each other and yes, even to be tolerant of one another. In this day of confusion, this letter helps guide us in this wonderful endeavor of being truly human for others." (Source: blogs.lcms.org, February 5, 2018)

What can we do? Read God's Word. Trust the Creator rather than the feelings and opinions of the created. Read the stories of Rosaria Butterfield, Christopher Yuan, and Walt Heyer. Each left a lesbian, homosexual, or transgender lifestyle when they recognized how they had been deceived and why their identity defined by God matters most. Visit www.christopheryuan.com, www.rosariabutterfield.com, and www.SexChangeRegret.com or WaltHeyer.com.

Please pray for an encouraged and courageous Body of Christ, that we might speak truth in love and… in Jesus' name.

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