

## **Illiana Christian Policy on Humanity**

### **Sanctity of Human Life**

We believe that all human beings are created by God and in His image. Nothing else in God's creation has the distinction of reflecting His image; it's a privileged status reserved for only humankind. This means that every person, from conception to death, possesses inherent dignity and immeasurable value. This includes pre-born children, elderly individuals, people with physical limitations or special needs of any kind, and others marginalized by society. Therefore, Christians are called to value human life in both their attitudes and their actions.

### **Value of Humanity**

People matter to God; therefore, they matter to us. Every person is deserving of compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Therefore, our beliefs on marriage and sexuality do not provide grounds for bigotry, bullying, or hate; hateful or harassing behavior or attitudes towards any individual are not in accordance with God's Word and will not be tolerated at Illiana Christian.

### **Value and Validity of Singleness**

We believe all Christians are called to love God with all of their heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love their neighbor as themselves. God calls Christians to serve Him whether in the married state or in the state of singleness. Marriage is neither a command for all believers nor a God-ordained goal for all believers; and, as such, should never be held out as a measure or test for faithfulness to Christ. Faithful singleness is a noble state, whether it be a temporary state, a calling, or even an unwanted circumstance.

### **God's Design for Marriage**

Marriage is intended by God to be a life-long commitment of sacrificial love between a man and a woman to create a God-honoring home for the raising of children and the mutual support of husband and wife reflecting the love of Christ for the church. In Biblical marriage, God created a place for sexual intimacy between one man and one woman. Although culture and customs have varied in their definition of marriage, God alone, through Scripture, has the ultimate authority regarding marriage relationships for believers. Though sexual intimacy outside of marriage is sinful, God provides redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin and thereby receive love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

### **God's Design for Sexuality**

Stewardship of sexuality is a life-long responsibility for every believer. While temptation and attraction might not be sinful, lust and sexual immorality as defined by Scripture, are. This includes, but is not limited to: sexual intimacy within premarital relationships, same-sex

relationships, bisexual relationships, polyamorous relationships, adultery, bestiality, incest, and pornography. However, because of Christ, we do not have to be held captive by sexual immorality but can walk in His forgiveness, grace, and power on a daily basis.

Because the human body is a creation of God and gender is biologically determined, actions to embrace a gender identity other than the one determined by God are deemed sinful and in opposition to the Creator. We regard a struggle with gender identity to be an opportunity to trust God as our Designer and Creator.

Finally, Illiana Christian High school strives to provide direction and encouragement for each person to walk according to God's plan. For any person dealing with sexual temptation of any kind, we will provide this direction and encouragement while offering grace, love and care.

\*This policy would be added into the Board handbook (640.6)

\*This policy would be added into the Board handbook in regards to faculty and staff(520.1 B) as well as coaches handbook. Review wording of 520.1B to see if this needs to be explicitly called out.

\*This policy would be hyperlinked to the SOF if the SOF is approved.

\*Failure to follow this policy for faculty/staff as well as students would fall under that above policy procedures.