



HERITAGE

FELLOWSHIP CHURCH



FAQ

**ENCOUNTERING GOD.
TOUCHING LIVES.
IMPACTING NATIONS.**

WHAT WE BELIEVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Throughout church history, sincere followers of Jesus have wrestled with certain issues — topics like marriage and sexuality, the role of women in leadership, and how faith engages with politics, amongst others. These are not new conversations; they've been discussed, prayed over, and debated for centuries within the body of Christ.

At Heritage Fellowship Church, we hold fast to the essentials of the Christian faith while extending grace and humility in areas where believers may differ. As a theologian from the 1600's once said, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, love."

Our desire is to remain rooted in truth, guided by Scripture, and marked by love in how we approach every conversation.

MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

- We uphold God's design for marriage and sexuality. We believe Scripture teaches that marriage is a sacred covenant between one man and one woman and that sexual expression is reserved for that covenant. Our calling is to live out covenant faithfulness and purity as a living example of God's good design.
- We seek to lead with the love and compassion of Christ. Jesus held to truth without compromise and extended compassion without condition. Our doors — and our hearts — are open to everyone, regardless of belief or background. No one will ever be turned away from worship because of differing views or experiences. We believe transformation begins in the presence of Jesus, and that's an invitation extended to all.
- Jesus showed us that acceptance and agreement are not the same thing. The people whose lives least reflected His teaching often felt most welcomed by Him. The prostitute, the tax collector, the outcast — all found welcome with Him before their lives ever aligned with His teaching. In our culture, people often say, "If you don't agree with me, you don't accept me." But Jesus modeled something entirely different: He accepted people deeply, even as He called them to transformation. At Heritage Fellowship, we aim to embody that same tension of grace and truth. We are steadfast in our alignment with Scripture, including God's design for marriage and sexuality. Yet we are equally steadfast in our commitment to love, welcome, and walk alongside all who come seeking Jesus.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

We recognize that the question of how men and women serve and lead in the church—especially in roles such as pastor and elder—has been a topic of discussion throughout church history. We believe women and men are equally gifted and qualified to serve in pastoral and elder leadership in the local church. We not only affirm but deeply value the presence of both men and women in these leadership roles, recognizing them as co-laborers in advancing God's mission. (Romans 16:1-2) Based on a foundation of scripture, here we have included our views regarding women in church leadership.

- We believe men and women are created equal in the image of God. We believe equality does not mean sameness. Each gender uniquely reflects God's image and character. (Genesis 1:27)
- We believe God gives leadership in the church based on grace, spiritual gifts, character, and obedience. (Romans 12:6)
- We believe both women and men can and should teach, preach, pastor, and minister within the church. Serving together strengthens the body of Christ in love and grace. (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27)

FAITH AND POLITICS

- The world's deepest issue is not political but spiritual. Humanity doesn't ultimately have a political problem — it has a sin problem. The answer is not found in a party or platform, but in a Savior. The real issue is sin, and the real hope is Jesus. (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23)
- We belong first and foremost to the Kingdom of God, not to any political party or side. (Philippians 3:20). Our goal is not to advance a political agenda but to live out and proclaim Kingdom principles — truth, justice, mercy, humility, and love — in every sphere of life.
- Scripture calls us to pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2) and to honor governing leaders (Romans 13:1), while remembering that our highest allegiance is to Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.
- At the same time, we recognize our responsibility as believers to engage in the public square with wisdom and conviction. In a democracy, we are blessed with the opportunity to vote, advocate, and influence for righteousness. We are to seek and support leaders and policies that most closely reflect Biblical truth.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

COMMUNION

Communion is a moment of worship where we remember the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus (Luke 22:19–20). At Heritage, we share in corporate communion as a church family, celebrating together the work of the cross. Communion elements are also available at the front during each service for individuals to partake at any time as they feel led. Additionally, families and home groups are encouraged to share communion together—a beautiful expression of worship and community. We believe serving communion is not reserved only for ordained ministers but is a gift for all believers—a personal and communal act of gratitude and faith in Jesus.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

At Heritage, we don't adhere strictly to one Bible translation. We believe that much can be gained from studying Scripture through a variety of versions and perspectives. In teaching, we most often use the English Standard Version (ESV) and the New International Version (NIV), while also drawing insight from other translations.

Regarding The Passion Translation—much like The Message—we view it as a beautiful and expressive rendering of Scripture, written in language that connects with today's readers. However, we are intentional to consider its context and compare it with other translations to ensure a full and faithful understanding of God's Word.