Ethical Positions Statement

ONE FOUNDATION
GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

Grand Canyon University's ethical commitments derive either directly or indirectly from its Doctrinal Statement, which affirms the Bible alone as the "infallible, true and authoritative Word of God." Ethical discourse must be carried out with sensitivity and respect, but the Bible serves as the final standard and authority in all matters of faith and practice, including ethics. GCU is committed to affirming moral truth in a loving and merciful way that helps rather than hurts by building up rather than tearing down through harsh judgment and self-righteousness. In this spirit, the university offers this statement of its ethical positions. While it would be impractical for the university to articulate precise ethical guidelines for every possible situation, the principles that follow should provide sufficient clarity for sound moral reasoning within the classroom and across the campus. It is our hope that the statement will provide greater clarity, unity and alignment across the university on matters of ethics and morality.

GCU's missional model places the university in an ideal position to engage students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives with the love of Christ. Accordingly, GCU prohibits unlawful discrimination, including any form of harassment and/or retaliation on the basis of age, disability, national origin, race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, veteran status or any other classification protected by applicable law, in its employment, admissions policies, educational programs or activities, while reserving its lawful rights where appropriate to take actions designed to ensure and promote the Christian principles that sustain its mission and heritage.

Position on Ethics and Moral Truth

Christian ethics is the set of moral principles derived from the Bible and rooted in the life-changing message of Jesus Christ, which provides guidance and wisdom for all of life. As a Christian institution, GCU is committed to distinctively Christian beliefs, values and practices rooted in the notion that God intelligently and purposefully ordered the entire universe, including human creatures, in ways that are consistent with His good nature and will. The university affirms that God has revealed His moral will to humanity in part through the way He created the universe and humans and in part through Holy Scripture. This means that an objective difference exists between what is right and what is wrong. Furthermore, it is possible to know the difference between right and wrong through observation and reflection on creation and in light of scriptural teaching. In certain situations, moral absolutes are difficult to apply with certainty due to the brokenness of the world in which we live and the inherent limitations of human reason. Therefore, humility is appropriate and necessary at all points.

While there are many ways to provide Christian higher education, GCU's missional model places the university in an ideal position to engage students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives with the love of Christ. Accordingly, GCU provides an educational environment that is free of unlawful discrimination in all policies, practices and programs. Specifically, the university does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any protected class, including but not limited to religion or sex, in its employment, admissions policies, educational programs or activities.

Position on Creation

The Doctrine of Creation is foundational to the Christian worldview and central to the Bible's emphasis on God's creative purposes and work to restore all things through Christ Jesus. As a Christian institution, GCU is committed to distinctively biblical understandings of God's role in the work of creation and His purpose in creating the heavens and the earth. The

26COT0056

Ethical Positions Statement

University affirms the God of the Bible as the Almighty Maker of Heaven and earth and the Creator of human beings. As a result, the earth is the Lord's and must be cultivated and cared for in ways that honor God and align with His creative purposes. The University's position on creation entails an understanding of the universe's origins that are supernatural rather than merely natural. Nonetheless, the University remains open to a range of understandings about the manner by which God brought the universe and human beings into existence.

While there are many ways to provide Christian higher education, GCU's missional model places the university in an ideal position to engage students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives with the love of Christ. Accordingly, GCU provides an educational environment that is free of unlawful discrimination in all policies, practices and programs. Specifically, the university does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any protected class, including but not limited to religion or sex, in its employment, admissions policies, educational programs or activities.

Position on Human Life

Human life is a great good and a precious gift from God, who specially created humanity in a way that uniquely reflects His image and likeness. As a Christian institution, GCU affirms that every human being is precious to God and should be treated with the dignity and respect appropriate to creatures who bear the image and likeness of the Creator. The university affirms the sanctity of human life and the intrinsic value of every human being. All humans must be regarded as persons who retain full personhood from the moment of conception until the point of natural death.

While there are many ways to provide Christian higher education, GCU's missional model places the university in an ideal position to engage students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives with the love of Christ. Accordingly, GCU provides an educational environment that is free of unlawful discrimination in all policies, practices and programs. Specifically, the university does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any protected class, including but not limited to religion or sex, in its employment, admissions policies, educational programs or activities.

Position on Salvation

The Christian Doctrine of Salvation derives from the Bible and centers on the person and work of Jesus Christ. As a Christian institution, GCU is committed to distinctively biblical understandings of Jesus, the nature and means of salvation and humanity's profound need for salvation. The university affirms that true salvation is offered to fallen creatures by a loving and merciful God on the basis of grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Salvation through Christ involves the renewal of the whole person and, therefore, should result in the transformation of individuals. In turn, those individuals should live in such a way that the communities in which they live are positively affected by this transformation.

While there are many ways to provide Christian higher education, GCU's missional model places the university in an ideal position to engage students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives with the love of Christ. Accordingly, GCU provides an educational environment that is free of unlawful discrimination in all policies, practices and programs. Specifically, the university does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any protected class, including but not limited to religion or sex, in its employment, admissions policies, educational programs or activities.

Position on Marriage and Sexuality

Christian views on marriage and sexuality derive from biblical teaching, are deeply rooted in the created order and ultimately reflect the wonderful relationship between Christ and His Church. As a Christian university, GCU honors and affirms the teaching of Jesus and traditional, biblical Christian positions on these topics by affirming marriage as a sacred union between a man and a woman. Furthermore, the university affirms that sexual relationships are designed by God to be expressed solely within the context of a marriage between a husband and wife. Marriage and sexuality should be regarded as good gifts from a wise God who best understands their powerful potential for the common good and maximal human flourishing. When rightly ordered and appropriately enjoyed, human sexuality bears unparalleled capacity, not only for procreation but also for

pleasure, satisfaction and the deepening of relationships. Therefore, as a matter of morality and faithful witness, members of GCU's community are encouraged to trust what God has revealed about these things and to respond and act with sensitivity, grace and compassion.

While there are many ways to provide Christian higher education, GCU's missional model places the university in an ideal position to engage students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives with the love of Christ. Accordingly, GCU provides an educational environment that is free of unlawful discrimination in all policies, practices and programs. Specifically, the university does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any protected class, including but not limited to religion or sex, in its employment, admissions policies, educational programs or activities.

Position on Christian Education

Christian education is the process of forming human beings through the transmission of knowledge, cultivation of competencies and development of godly wisdom. The university affirms that education relates to the whole person and should assist individuals in finding and living purposefully. Education that is profoundly Christian combines the knowledge of God and His creation while honoring the Lord Jesus and maintaining the integrity of the academic disciplines. As a Christian institution, GCU is committed to distinctively Christian approaches toward education that are grounded in theological conviction, development of sound character and the capacity to live in ways that honor God, benefit others and contribute significantly to the common good.

While there are many ways to provide Christian higher education, GCU's missional model places the university in an ideal position to engage students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives with the love of Christ. Accordingly, GCU provides an educational environment that is free of unlawful discrimination in all policies, practices and programs. Specifically, the university does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any protected class, including but not limited to religion or sex, in its employment, admissions policies, educational programs or activities.

Position on Academic Freedom

Christian education requires the freedom necessary to explore and discover the riches of wisdom that God has revealed in the natural world and in Scripture. As a Christian institution, GCU recognizes that critical thought, open dialogue and a fair presentation of all major views is vital to higher education but is indispensable for genuinely Christian instruction. The university affirms that a proper balance between academic freedom and responsibility must be maintained for the sake of students, as well as the integrity and mission of the institution. Within a Christian education, the commitments of the Christian worldview should guide and constrain the educational process. All who choose to participate in the life of the university should strive to sustain an appropriate balance between liberty and responsibility in accord with the purposes for which the institution exists.

While there are many ways to provide Christian higher education, GCU's missional model places the university in an ideal position to engage students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives with the love of Christ. Accordingly, GCU provides an educational environment that is free of unlawful discrimination in all policies, practices and programs. Specifically, the university does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any protected class, including but not limited to religion or sex, in its employment, admissions policies, educational programs or activities.

Position on Religious Liberty

Religious liberty is an essential mark of any free state and aligns with the theological principle that God alone is Lord of the conscience. As a Christian institution, GCU recognizes that government has been ordained by God and that the state merits the loyalty and respect of its citizens. Resistance to the state is only appropriate when the state requires disobedience to the commands of God. The university affirms that Christians are simultaneously members of the Church and citizens of the state and, thus, bear responsibility within both the Church and state. Christian faith is a personal matter, but the implications of

faith in Christ should not and cannot remain private. Anyone who follows Christ in truth should strive to live in the way that Christ lived, both in private and in public.

While there are many ways to provide Christian higher education, GCU's missional model places the university in an ideal position to engage students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives with the love of Christ. Accordingly, GCU provides an educational environment that is free of unlawful discrimination in all policies, practices and programs. Specifically, the university does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any protected class, including but not limited to religion or sex, in its employment, admissions policies, educational programs or activities.

Position on Christian Unity

Christian unity is rooted in the biblical teaching that the Church is one body united by one Spirit, a common faith and one baptism. Moreover, all believers hope in the same Lord Jesus and worship the one God and Father of all. As a Christian institution, GCU is committed to biblical unity and Christ-honoring cooperation with all people and institutions of like minds and faith. The university affirms the spiritual unity of believers in Jesus Christ and the need to intentionally cultivate unity based on the essentials of the gospel, Christian fellowship and cooperation in basic works of compassion and Christian service. While GCU is not a church, it exists in part to serve the Church and is guided by a commitment to do so in ways that cultivate and deepen the Christian virtue of unity.

While there are many ways to provide Christian higher education, GCU's missional model places the university in an ideal position to engage students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives with the love of Christ. Accordingly, GCU provides an educational environment that is free of unlawful discrimination in all policies, practices and programs. Specifically, the university does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any protected class, including but not limited to religion or sex, in its employment, admissions policies, educational programs or activities.

Position on Stewardship

Christian stewardship is rooted in the biblical mandate to fill, subdue and rule the earth in ways that honor its Creator and the theological conviction that every good and perfect gift comes from God. As a Christian institution, GCU is committed to distinguishing itself as a university that is concerned with honoring God and serving others in the ways it wisely manages, distributes and employs the many resources the Lord has provided. The university affirms that all tangible and intangible resources should be employed toward the ends of glorifying God, furthering the common good and promoting human flourishing. The many resources that God has entrusted to GCU must be conceived of and treated as opportunities to further the goals and purposes of His Kingdom rather than ours. Thus, the university is committed to the notion that wise business practices and thoughtful stewardship glorify God, benefit the GCU community and its neighbors and positively impact its considerable sphere of influence within the West Valley and across the nation.

While there are many ways to provide Christian higher education, GCU's missional model places the university in an ideal position to engage students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives with the love of Christ. Accordingly, GCU provides an educational environment that is free of unlawful discrimination in all policies, practices and programs. Specifically, the university does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any protected class, including but not limited to religion or sex, in its employment, admissions policies, educational programs or activities.