Dear Culture Contrarians,

“How long has it been since the church where you fellowship has changed its doctrinal statement?” That is the question I was asked last spring at a conference for administrators and taught by lawyers. “That is too long,” was their response.

I came away convinced we need to add a layer of protection in our corporate documents; but as a theologian I wondered where it should go. Should it go under *anthropology*, or maybe the *Holy Spirit*, but then it dawned on me; it needs to go under the *Christian Walk*.

The parts in yellow are the new additions.

### Section 15—The Christian Walk

We believe that we are called with a holy calling, to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and so to live in the power of the indwelling Spirit that we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. We believe that marriage is honorable and is the realm for physical intimacy between a man and a woman. We believe that while the non-material aspects of humans were created in the image and after the likeness of God, the bodies He made male and female. We believe that marriage is between one man and one woman as determined by biology at the time of birth. But the flesh with its fallen, Adamic nature, which in this life is never eradicated, being with us to the end of our earthly pilgrimage, needs to be kept by the Spirit constantly in subjection to Christ, or it will surely manifest its presence in our lives to the dishonor of our Lord (Rom. 6:11–13; 8:2, 4, 12–13; Gal. 5:16–23; Eph. 4:22–24; Col. 2:1–10; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 1:14–16; 1 John 1:4–7; 3:5–9).

It’s hard for me to believe that our society has shifted so far away from biblical truth that this sort of thing needs to be spelled out. These statements need to be added to the Christian Walk because isn’t the whole gender dysphoria really redefining of morality? I know it is not enough to have it in our bylaws; it must also be in our employee contracts and student handbooks.

A doctrinal statement declares what we believe. That is the easy part. Living lives under the Spirit’s generous management is the continual challenge.

My love to you all,

*Dr. Marvin J. Effa*