



Last week, in a surprising but welcome decision, Bethany Christian Services announced a significant policy reversal and a renewed commitment to its Biblical, Christian identity. This is encouraging news from one of the nation's largest Christian foster care and adoption agencies.

In 2021, Bethany moved away from its historic biblical standards for foster and adoptive placements, prompting concern among many Christians.

Beginning in 2027, the organization will only license and re-license foster families whose faith and beliefs align with Bethany's Statement of Faith and Belief, which affirms marriage as God's design between one man and one woman. The organization has also clarified that it is strengthening its Christian mission and identity throughout its ministry.

In announcing the changes, Bethany CEO Keith Cureton stated:

"Clarity around our Christian identity is essential to our Christian witness and critical to the long-term health, sustainability, and impact of our mission."

[Christian Post](#), which announced Bethany's turnaround, states:

According to data from a [recent national survey](#) from the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO), Christians were nearly twice as likely to have adopted and three times as likely to have fostered than those with no religious faith. The study also found such a trend "holds true in relation to other faiths, with Christians having adopted or fostered nearly twice as often."

"I always say, we're looking for people looking for us," Cureton said. "Christians are nearly two times more likely to adopt than people with no faith. So, the Christian response is not marginal. It's the primary driver of engagement, I think, in the U.S., in the foster and adoption system."

"Nearly two-thirds of Americans want churches to be more involved in helping vulnerable children and families," he said. "That's why we're going to use the church as our main way of recruiting."

Why This Matters:

For years, faith-based ministries have faced increasing pressure to compromise on biblical truths to continue serving in the public square. The foster care system has often been one of the primary battlegrounds.

Bethany's announcement reminds us that Christian organizations do not have to choose between biblical faithfulness and compassionate service.

The foster care system does not need fewer Christian families. It needs more Biblical, Christian families willing to open their homes and lives to children in need.

As churches, we should celebrate every effort to strengthen families and provide children with safe, nurturing homes grounded in biblical truth.

The Foster Care Need in Pennsylvania:

Around 15,000 children across Pennsylvania are currently involved in the foster care system. Many have experienced abuse, neglect, trauma, family instability, or parental addiction and need a loving family filled with hope and stability.

Throughout Scripture, God's people are repeatedly called to defend the fatherless, care for the orphan, and support families.

Not every Christian family is called to become foster parents, but every church can play a role. And every church can do something.

One of the most effective ways for churches to engage is through partnering with [Keystone Family Alliance](#). Their ministry is dedicated to mobilizing churches to care for vulnerable children and families across Pennsylvania.

Keystone Family Alliance helps churches:

- Recruit and support foster families
- Launch Care Communities within local congregations
- Support adoptive and kinship families & provide practical assistance to families in crisis
- Equip volunteers to serve vulnerable children & train Mentors to help older Foster Care teens

Through Care Communities, church members provide meals, transportation, childcare, mentoring, prayer support, and practical encouragement to foster and adoptive families. These support networks dramatically increase the likelihood that families can continue serving children successfully.

The foster care crisis is a Gospel opportunity! As believers, we have been adopted into God's family through Jesus Christ. Foster care and adoption provide tangible opportunities to reflect that same redeeming love to children who need stability, belonging, and hope.

Bethany's announcement is encouraging, but the need remains. Thousands of children across Pennsylvania are still waiting for families and churches willing to step forward.

May we answer that call with conviction, compassion, and faithfulness.

"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed." — Psalm 82:3

In Christ,



Kurt Weaver

Director

Pennsylvania Church Ambassador Network

P.S. Join us for a Keystone Family Alliance Event called [Breaking Bondage](#) in Reading, PA.



[Donate Here](#)