

EMMANUEL CHURCH POSITION STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

Last updated September 8, 2023

We believe that God's will for human sexuality is rooted in His love for humanity and that His will is revealed in the Bible. As the Emmanuel Congregational Christian Church community, we acknowledge that every person falls short of His perfect will and that everyone participating in our community has the ability and responsibility to grow in these areas. We recognize that every person is on a journey and because of this we are committed to being a community of grace and truth where we all pursue God's holy will for our lives; including our understanding and practice of family and human sexuality.

The underlying basis for this statement is Article III of the Emmanuel Congregational Christian Church constitution's Statement of Faith

- 1) *"We believe that the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the divinely inspired and infallible word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.*

Regarding Human Sexuality:

1. **Creation and Sexuality:** God created man and woman in His own image, and pronounced them good. Human nature as created consists of a number of dimensions that influence one another. Sexuality is one of these dimensions.
2. **Honouring God in our Sexuality:** All human activity, including the expression of sexuality, should have as its end the honouring of God. Those pursuing godliness are to live lives of purity in thought, word and deed, including purity with reference to sexuality. God is honoured by the mutually intimate physical expression of sexuality when this expression occurs between a man and a woman within a monogamous marriage.
3. **Our Fallen Nature and Sexuality:** Through human disobedience to God, all dimensions of human nature, individually and collectively, have been corrupted. Thus, human sexuality is subject to abuse and misuse which dishonours God.
4. **Dishonouring God in our Sexual Behaviour:** God is dishonoured by anything which displaces Him from His rightful place of priority in one's life. Therefore, He is dishonoured, for example, by sexual obsession, the intimate physical expression of sexuality outside of marriage, sexual activity between persons of the same sex, between an adult and a child, between close relatives (as specified in Leviticus 18:6-18), or between a person and an animal.
5. **Forgiveness and Sexual Behaviour:** While some temporal effects of sexual sins may remain, sexual sins, like any other sins, can be forgiven by God through Jesus Christ, upon confession and repentance.

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it." (Genesis 1:27-28a)

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened... Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another." (Romans 1:21, 24)

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9)

(Scripture references are from the NIV)