

Current Text of NWYM Faith and Practice

Human Sexuality

Friends believe that the divine intent of marriage is to fulfill the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of humankind and that only within the bonds of marriage divinely ordained can there be a beautiful sexual relationship for the purposes of reproduction and life enrichment. Adultery and fornication are sinful because they distort the purposes of God for the right ordering of human sexuality.

Friends believe that the practice of sexual perversion in any form is sinful and contrary to the God-ordained purposes in sexual relationships. These perversions include sexual violence, homosexual acts, transvestism, incest, and sex acts with animals. The sin nature is capable of vile affections when humankind rejects the moral laws of God.

Scriptures relating to these distorted and perverse forms of sexuality include Genesis 19:1-13; Deuteronomy 22:5; Leviticus 18:20, 22, 23; Romans 1:24-28; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 2 and 6:9-20. Neither in the Scriptures nor in church history have these practices been regarded as consistent with righteous living.

Friends do not accept as members those involved in these perverse practices; neither do they permit them to hold positions of responsibility or leadership in the church. However, Friends believe that the grace of God is adequate to cleanse and deliver from all sin (1 John 19; 2 Corinthians 5:17), and they desire to be tender and sensitive to all people, ready to express kindness, love, and forgiveness. See also Jude 7, 8; Colossians 3:5-7; and Revelation 2:18, 27. When the erring one has been repentant, the past should not be remembered. As Christ called and blessed those whom He forgave, so must His followers. Friends must not hinder the forgiven person from holding membership or having responsibility in the church.

Friends churches should exercise concern for their members on matters of sexuality and should discipline offenders in love and truth.

Proposal presented at YM '13:

Christian Witness to Human Sexuality. We believe that God created humans with a desire for connected community, for friendship, for family, for sexual intimacy, all of which are part of God's good creation. We give testimony that the purpose of sexual intimacy is both for procreation and for formation and sustenance of bonds between husband and wife, which are good for the health and stability of the family and the community. We believe, therefore, that distortions of sexual intimacy including infidelity, premarital sex, and homosexual acts contribute to brokenness of the individual and the community. We aim to be a community whose supreme vital purpose is relationship with the Christ who lovingly pursues every person—a community that provides a place to be open, honest, and accountable with sexual desires, wounds, and brokenness—a place where people can grow in the understanding and practice of connecting intimately. We affirm the journey toward healing, reconciliation, and sexual wholeness out of loving concern for the individual and for the good of the entire community.

Revised proposal – to be presented at YM '14:

Christian Witness to Human Sexuality. We believe that God created humans with a desire for connected community, for friendship, for family, for sexual intimacy, all of which are part of God's good creation. We give testimony that the purpose of sexual intimacy is both for procreation and for formation and sustenance of bonds of mutual love and respect between husband and wife, which nurtures the health and stability of the family and the community. We believe, therefore, that distortions of sexual intimacy including infidelity, premarital sex, same-sex sexual acts, and pornography contribute to brokenness of the individual and the community. We aim to be a community whose supreme vital purpose is relationship with Jesus Christ, who lovingly pursues every person—a community that provides a place to be open, honest, and accountable with sexual desires, wounds, and brokenness—a place where people can grow in God's grace and in the understanding and practice of connecting intimately. Out of loving concern for the individual and for the good of the entire community, we affirm the divinely empowered journey toward healing and sexual wholeness, repentance and restoration.