

HUMAN SEXUALITY
Netherlands District Assembly
Manual 32

RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 32 be amended as follows:

32. The Church of the Nazarene views human sexuality as one expression of the holiness and beauty that God the Creator intended for His creation. It is one of the ways by which the covenant between a husband and a wife is sealed and expressed. Christians are to understand that in marriage human sexuality can and ought to be sanctified by God. Human sexuality achieves fulfillment only as a sign of comprehensive love and loyalty. Christian husbands and wives should view sexuality as a part of their much larger commitment to one another and to Christ from whom the meaning of life is drawn.

The Christian home should serve as a setting for teaching children the sacred character of human sexuality and for showing them how its meaning is fulfilled in the context of love, fidelity, and patience.

Our ministers and Christian educators should state clearly the Christian understanding of human sexuality, urging Christians to celebrate its rightful excellence, and rigorously to guard against its betrayal and distortion.

[Sexuality misses its purpose when treated as an end in itself or when cheapened by using another person to satisfy pornographic and perverted sexual interests. We view all forms of sexual intimacy that occur outside the covenant of heterosexual marriage as sinful distortions of the holiness and beauty God intended for it.

Homosexuality is one means by which human sexuality is perverted. We recognize the depth of the perversion that leads to homosexual acts but affirm the biblical position that such acts are sinful and subject to the wrath of God. We believe the grace of God sufficient to overcome the practice of homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). We deplore any action or statement that would seem to imply compatibility between Christian morality and the practice of homosexuality. We urge clear preaching and teaching concerning Bible standards of sexual morality.]

(Genesis 1:27; 19:1–25; Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 1 Timothy 1:8–10)

REASONS:

1. This *Manual* section is on human sexuality, but the final paragraph and the supporting references to Scripture give the impression that the paragraph section is intended to be a statement on homosexuality. The complexity of homosexuality and the tension it causes in churches deserves more and careful attention than a concluding paragraph in a section article on human sexuality.
2. The final paragraph adds nothing to the clear position expressed in the preceding paragraphs. Further, the language of the final paragraph serves to alienate and harm those among us who are committed to

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holiness and to our confessions regarding marriage, while personally acknowledging homosexual orientation.

3. The paragraph should be a positive declaration of what we believe concerning human sexuality as designed by God. In this way the paragraph guides and encourages the believers to practice their sexuality in a God honoring way. Therefore it is proposed to delete the penultimate paragraph as well. The warning against the many distortions is sufficiently addressed in the preceding paragraphs.