

DECLARATION ON MARRIAGE & SEXUALITY

We, the Commissioners of the 2004 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, affirm our commitment to the Bible's message of the love of God for sinners and the good news of the forgiveness of sin, of a new beginning, and of eternal life. This is God's gift to those who repent of their sin and trust in the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We affirm our commitment to the Bible's message that those who experience this forgiveness and new beginning gladly seek to live a life that pleases God. This means choosing a lifestyle that conforms to God's standards, which includes abstinence from sexual intercourse before marriage and faithfulness within marriage. Marriage consists of one man and one woman in a lifelong and exclusive commitment.

We affirm our commitment to the teaching of the Bible that condemns homosexual activity and desire, and therefore absolutely precludes the ordination of those continuing to practice or endorse homosexual activity and desire.

We express our deepest regret at the decisions of other denominations that allow for the ordination of those continuing to practice or endorse homosexual activity and desire, and we declare this to be a most grievous departure from the Bible's message concerning the nature of sin and the repentance necessary for salvation.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the answer to the underlying problems of those who struggle with homosexual activity and desire - such as the problem of loneliness, the longing for loving relationships, the meaning and control of our sexuality, and the quest for personal identity. As our Creator-God Jesus Christ is also our Saviour and Friend who is able to restore our humanity at every level by healing us in our inner dispositions and social relationships.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we call upon all those who profess faith in Him to stand with us in this commitment to God's Word and we offer any assistance that we are able to give to this end.