

CHURCH STATEMENTS ON HOMOSEXUALITY

Principles to Guide Confessors in Questions of Homosexuality - 1973 - NCCB

“The objective morality of sexual acts.... Genital sexual expression between a man and woman should take place only in marriage. ...(H)omosexual acts are a grave transgression of the goals of human sexuality and of human personality, and are consequently contrary to the will of God.”

“The subjective morality of homosexual acts must be considered under two aspects, the origin of the tendency, and the manner in which the person controls it.”

Declaration on Certain Questions Concerning Sexual Ethics – 1975 - Sacred Congregations for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF)

8 “...according to the objective moral order, homosexual relations are acts which lack an essential and indispensable finality. ...(H)omosexual acts are intrinsically disordered and can in no case be approved of.”

The Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons - 1986 - CDF

3 “Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is a more or less strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic moral evil and thus the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church - 1994 - #s 2357 to 2359 - USCC

“Homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered.’ They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. ... [Persons with this inclination] do not choose their homosexual condition. ... They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard must be avoided.”

Human Sexuality, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1991

“We believe that it is only within a heterosexual marital relationship that genital sexual activity is morally acceptable. Only within marriage does sexual intercourse fully symbolize the Creator’s dual design, as an act of covenant love, with the potential of co-creating new human life. Therefore, homosexual genital activity is considered immoral. Like heterosexual persons, homosexual men and women are called to give witness to chastity, avoiding, with God’s grace, behavior that is wrong for them, just as nonmarital sexual relations are wrong for heterosexual men and women.” #55

“We call on all Christians and citizens of good will to confront their own fears about homosexuality and to curb the humor and discrimination that offend homosexual persons. We understand that having a homosexual orientation brings with it enough anxiety, pain

and issues related to self-acceptance without society bringing additional prejudicial treatment.” #55

Always Our Children: a Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers - 1998 (revised edition) - NCCB

“With the help of God’s grace, everyone is called to practice the virtue of chastity in relationships. Chastity means integrating one’s thoughts, feelings and actions in the area of human sexuality in a way that values and respects one’s own dignity and that of others.”

“The church teaches that homogenital behavior is objectively immoral, while making the important distinctions between this behavior and a homosexual orientation, which is not immoral in itself. It is important to recognize that neither a homosexual orientation nor a heterosexual one leads inevitably to sexual activity. One’s total personhood is not reducible to sexual orientation or behavior.”