

R-5-09

Reviewed

Resolution Memorializing the 2009 Churchwide Assembly Regarding the Biblical and Historical Precedent regarding Christians and Sex.

Whereas, Jesus believed that a male-female requirement for sexual relations was foundational. (“...*from the beginning of creation, male and female He created them*” and “*for this reason a man...will be joined to his wife and the two will become one flesh.*” (Mark 10:2-12; Matt. 19:3-9) and

Whereas, the early Church that knew Jesus was united in its belief that a male-female prerequisite for sexual unions was essential - despite significant and powerful pressures and practices to the contrary in the cultural environments surrounding the Church, and

Whereas, Martin Luther taught marriage between one man and one woman as the foundational order, station and vocation (*Luther’s Works* 44, 9; *Luther’s Works-Weimar* 2, 67, *Book of Concord* 393) and that sex outside of marriage between one man and one woman (except betrothal) is sin. (*Luther: Letters of Spiritual Counsel* 18, 273; *LW, Erlangen edition* 23, 123) and

Whereas, hundreds of years of church history have continuously supported marriage between one man and one woman as the only proper place for human sexual expression and have never supported any other form of sexual expression including polygamy, homosexual unions, or cycles of divorce and remarriage, and

Whereas, the Gospel welcomes all of us sinners into the forgiving grace of the body of Christ, it nevertheless assumes that the Holy Spirit will work to cause us to repent and to change us and redeem us. The Church is therefore a channel for our Lord’s forgiveness, healing, strength and courage to adulterers, homosexuals, pederasts, polyamorists and all of us sinners. Therefore,

Be it resolved, that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reaffirm that the New Testament’s record, the historical precedent of the Church and Lutheran doctrine insist that, for Christians, God’s intention is that sex is only within marriage between one man and one woman with a lifetime commitment, and that outside of such marriage between one man and one woman the Christian is to remain abstinent.

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Reference and Counsel Committee **RECOMMENDS DEFEAT.**

R-5-09 was defeated.