

Free Church of England's Position

On Human Sexuality

We recognise that all of us are sinners, and that the only true hope for sinful people – whether homosexual or heterosexual – is in Jesus Christ. The Free Church of England teaches that that monogamous heterosexual marriage is the only form of partnership approved by God for full sexual relations today. Holy Matrimony is the exclusive commitment of a man and woman to each other in conjugal love (Genesis 2:20-25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5). It is intended to be a life-long union (Matthew 19:3-12), in which children may be born and nurtured (1 Corinthians 7:12-14). A pattern for marriage is shown in Christ's love for the Church (Ephesians 5:22-33). This understanding of marriage is based on the plain teaching of Scripture and is enshrined in the Solemnization of Matrimony in the Book of Common Prayer and in the authorised Catechism of this Church.

Convocation does not consent to any premises of the Free Church of England being used for the registration or blessing of same-sex unions, nor are the clergy of this Church permitted to take part in such ceremonies.

At the same time, we deeply regret the hurt caused to homosexual men and women by the Church's past and present attitudes towards them. We wish in particular to offer pastoral support to Christians struggling with same-sex temptation who remain celibate in obedience to Christ and affirm them in their faithfulness.