

Human Sexuality

Informed by the teachings of Scripture and God’s creational intent, we believe that God designed sex to be enjoyed between a man and a woman within the context of marriage. Sexuality, singleness and marriage are beautiful components of human life—layered with practical, familial, biological, and spiritual meaning. This perspective is often referred to as the ‘traditional viewpoint’ or ‘an orthodox understanding’ of human sexuality.

As image bearers who humbly follow Christ, we affirm God’s design for male and female sexuality that reflects His image. We believe God created humanity as male and female, “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27). This means:

- We believe each man and woman is an image-bearer of the triune God and crowned with dignity.
- We believe that every person should embrace their God-given sex.
- We believe God’s intention for a sexual relationship is to be between a husband and a wife in the lifelong covenant of marriage.
 - Every other sexual relationship beyond this is outside of God’s design and is not in keeping with God’s original plan for humanity (cf. Genesis 2:18, 24-25, Matthew 19:4-6, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Ephesians 5:25-31).
 - Therefore, any engagement in sexual activity of any sort outside the guardrails of God’s design should be avoided.
- We believe Jesus Christ modeled and affirmed life as a single person. Moreover, Jesus’ life affirms celibacy for the single person, and abstinence from sexual intercourse if or until the single person marries (Matthew 19:11-12).

The second page of this resource provides information on how our theological viewpoint interacts with belonging within our specific church, along with additional comments.

Implications for belonging at Ayr Hill Church:

We offer to every person an authentic and honest community whereby all persons, single and married, may find restoration from broken relationships within the community of Christ.

Everyone here has experienced brokenness, including in human sexuality. We wish to hold forth the hope of Jesus for all. We deeply desire that our posture be one of humility and love.

We authentically believe our statement reflects scriptural teaching regarding sexual ethics. We also acknowledge that others of sincere faith have come to differing conclusions regarding the biblical teaching on human sexuality. If this is you, we want to offer the gift of clarity regarding where we stand in this statement, again with humility and love.

We will always seek to preach, lead, mentor, and disciple from our beliefs about Scripture—with the goal to neither shy away from difficult topics nor focus exclusively on controversial subjects.

Comment 1: This statement borrows language from a couple of resources; specifically, a leadership training manual for National Community Church (NCC), and a welcome document for DC Chi Alpha Campus Ministries (DC XA).

Comment 2: This statement has been recently crafted by local pastoral leadership at Ayr Hill Church to reflect the interpretive perspective of our current local pastors. Although the statement is fresh, it expresses the longstanding framework of our church's leadership since its founding in 1944.

Comment 3: This statement is also in alignment with our denomination (Assemblies of God, USA) and with orthodox statements of faith encompassing a vast majority of Christian expression in our current time and for the past two millennia.

Comment 4: We believe that sexual harassment, abuse, and exploitation are especially grievous sins. We acknowledge that some Christians (and churches) have focused on a narrow description of sexual sin (sex outside of marriage or same-sex relationships) while seemingly less passionate about protecting victims of sexual violence. We lament this and aspire to do justly.