

# Faith and Facts: Human Sexuality

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

- **Leviticus 12:2, 5** — uncleanness of women who have just given birth, of women who are menstruating, and of menstrual blood
- **Deuteronomy 22:23-24** – the law requiring that a betrothed urban dwelling virgin, who is raped, be stoned to death for failing to cry out for help, as well as stoning her rapist for violating what belonged to another man
- **1 Kings 11:3** — the sexual/marital arrangements of King Solomon who had 700 wives and 300 concubines
- **Song of Solomon 4:1-5** — its sensual poetry that describes the beauty of a woman’s lips, neck, breasts
- **Hosea 2:2-3** — sexual/marital metaphors for God’s relationship to Israel in the prophets, such as God’s violent punishment of stripping “her naked” and killing her because of her “whoring” ways
- **Matthew 19:11-12** — Jesus’ teaching about eunuchs
- **Luke 1:7-18** — fertility problems of Elizabeth and Zechariah
- **John 8: 1-11** — Jesus stopping the stoning of a woman accused of adultery.
- **Romans 1:24-28** — Paul’s discussion of idolatry and the giving up of natural passions for unnatural ones
- **1 Corinthians 7** — Paul’s preference for Christians to remain virgins and unmarried in order to freely focus on pleasing God
- **Revelation 17:15** — the apocalypse imagery of the whore who is made naked, has her flesh devoured, and is then burned with fire

## WHAT DOES THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SAY?

- Social Principles of The United Methodist Church 2008
  - **Paragraphs 161.II. The Nurturing Community**  
The United Methodist Church states its desire to “provide the potential for nurturing human beings into the fullness of their humanity,” within the Social Principals. This paragraph discusses family, marriage, divorce, single persons, men and women, human sexuality, and sexual harassment.
  - **Paragraphs 162.III. The Social Community**  
This paragraph expresses The United Methodist Church’s affirmation of “all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God.” Sexual orientation does not alter this view. The United Methodist Church works to support the rights and liberties of homosexual persons and end violent and unjust acts against gays and lesbians.”
- Book of Resolutions
  - **Church to Be in Ministry to Persons of All Sexual Orientations (#2041, 2008 BOR)**  
“Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church dedicate itself to a ministry of Christ-like hospitality and compassion to persons of all sexual orientations, and to a vision of unity through openness to the spiritual gifts of all those who have been baptized into the Body of Jesus Christ.”
  - **Dialogue on Homosexuality (#34, 2004 BOR)**  
The 2000 General Conference decided to begin a series of dialogues on issues related to homosexuality and the unity of the church.
  - **Opposition to Homophobia and Heterosexism Resolution (#2043, 2008 BOR)**  
“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United Methodist Church strengthen its advocacy of the eradication of sexism by opposing all forms of violence or discrimination based on gender, gender identity, sexual practice or sexual orientation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Board of Church and Society provide resources and materials aimed at educating members of the local churches about the reality, issues, and effects of homophobia and heterosexism and the need for Christian witness against these facets of marginalization.”

- **Report of the Task Force on Homosexuality and the Unity of the Church (#35, 2004 BOR)**  
“Therefore, be it resolved, that the 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church receives the report of the Task Force on Homosexuality and the Unity of the Church of the GCCUIC and commends the report to the whole Church, and  
*Be it further resolved*, that the 2004 General Conference encourages further dialogue throughout The United Methodist Church designed with worship at the center to lead to greater understanding, love, and care for each other, and with the hope that our struggles with these concerns will take a more civil character to the benefit of us all.”

## OTHER RESOURCES

### Web-sites

- The Anti-Homophobia/Transphobia Project - [advfy.nonprofitsoapbox.com](http://advfy.nonprofitsoapbox.com)
- Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) - [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)
- Human Rights First - [www.humanrightsfirst.org](http://www.humanrightsfirst.org)
- McGill Equity Subcommittee on Queer People - [www.mcgill.ca/queerequity/heterosexism](http://www.mcgill.ca/queerequity/heterosexism)
- National Youth Advocacy Coalition - [www.nyacyouth.org](http://www.nyacyouth.org)
- Reconciling Ministries Network - [www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org)
- Southerners On New Ground (SONG) - [www.southernersonnewground.org](http://www.southernersonnewground.org)
- United Methodist Global AIDS Fund - [www.umglobalaidsfund.org](http://www.umglobalaidsfund.org)

### Articles and Books

- Cook, Ann Thompson. *And God Loves Each One: A Resource for Dialogue About Sexual Orientation*. 2nd ed. Washington, DC: Dumbarton United Methodist Church, 2004.
- Cook, Ann Thompson. *Made in God's Image*. 1st ed. Washington, DC: Dumbarton United Methodist Church, 2003.
- *Sex and the Church* Article Series by General Board of Church and Society - [www.umc-gbcs.org](http://www.umc-gbcs.org)
- White, Mel. *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America* (Plume Books). New York: Plume, 1995.

### Movies

- *For The Bible Tells Me So*. DVD. Directed by Daniel G. Karslake. Los Angeles: First Run Features, 2007.
- *Milk*. DVD. Directed by Gus Van Sant. Los Angeles, CA: Universal Studios, 2008.