

The positional of Faros Christian Fellowship on homosexuality

These points follow the recommendations in the document '*Faith, Hope and Homosexuality*', which is a report issued by the Evangelical Alliance (UK) Commission on Unity and Truth among Evangelicals (ACUTE) in 1998.

Reference can be made to this document in order to understand the following conclusions.

1. 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, and that his love, truth and grace must characterise our responses to sin.
2. We affirm that monogamous heterosexual marriage is the only form of partnership approved by God for full sexual relations today.
Therefore we understand that homosexual and extra-marital heterosexual acts are sinful.
3. We affirm God's love and concern for all humanity, including homosexual people, but believe homoerotic sexual practice to be incompatible with his will as revealed in Scripture. We therefore do not accept and/or endorse sexually active homosexual partnerships as a legitimate form of Christian relationship.
4. We reject as unbiblical:
 - a) the concept of 'homosexual marriage'
 - b) church services for the blessing of homosexual relationships
 - c) the appointing of sexually active lesbians and gay men to leadership and ministry
5. We commend and encourage those homosexual Christian people who have committed themselves to chastity and celibacy.
We affirm that such people are eligible for ministry and leadership within the church.
6. We repudiate homophobia insofar as it denotes an irrational fear or hatred of homosexuals, and deeply regret the hurt caused to lesbians and gay men by the Church's past and present hatred and rejection of them.
We do not accept, however, that to reject homoerotic sexual practice on biblical grounds is in itself homophobic.
7. We welcome and accept sexually active homosexual people in the church, but to do so in the expectation that they will come in due course to see the need to change their lifestyle in accordance with biblical revelation and orthodox church teaching as they receive mercy and grace from God.
We aim to exercise gentleness and patience in this process, and provide ongoing care even after a homosexual person renounces same-sex sexual relations.
8. We believe habitual homoerotic sexual activity without repentance to be inconsistent with faithful church membership and disqualifies a person from taking Communion.
Where someone actively promotes homoerotic sexual practice within the Fellowship, that person will be excluded from the Fellowship if there is no repentance.
9. We commend the work of those organisations which seek to help homosexual Christians live a celibate life, and also commend those groups which responsibly assist homosexuals who wish to reorient to a heterosexual lifestyle.