



A PASTORAL NOTE ON THE REPEAL OF SECTION 377A

27 Aug 2022

Dear Cornerstone

Our Prime Minister announced at the National Day Rally on 21 Aug 2022 that the Government will be repealing Section 377A of the Penal Code, which criminalises homosexual sex. At the same time, he added the Government will be acting to protect the definition of marriage as being heterosexual.

It follows that whilst Section 377A is repealed, there will be no shift in government policies and practices across its ministries, including education, media, and housing. In addition, assurances have been made that religious freedom will be protected and that Singaporeans will be able to act according to their convictions and conscience without being harassed.

From a Biblical standpoint, we cannot support the repeal of Section 377A. At the same time, Singapore is a secular society that needs to balance the needs of different communities and a changing global landscape.

In the months leading up to this announcement, the Government has been actively engaging us on this matter, and we are thankful for their efforts in listening to us, and putting in place assurances to the concerns that we have raised.

The leadership of Cornerstone Community Church deems it necessary to affirm several truths for our members:

1. HOMOSEXUALITY IS A SIN

The Scriptures instruct us clearly and with no ambiguity that homosexuality is a sin and goes against the natural order of nature and Creation. The Scriptures form our moral authority, and as followers of Christ, one cannot continue to practice homosexuality without repentance and remain within the saving grace offered by the Lord.

For those in Cornerstone who experience same-sex attraction, they remain our brothers and sisters in Christ, and it is important we love and care for them, for that is the desire of every human heart. As we are all in the process of being perfected, let us extend mercy and grace to one another in our struggles. We desire for Cornerstone to continue to be a safe place for all people.

We believe nobody is destined to be gay. Instead, we believe everyone is able to choose to live a life pleasing to God our creator. The Gospel provides the hope of being washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Cor 6:11)



2. GOD IS LOOKING FOR A RIGHTEOUS QUORUM

When Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19, the Lord looked for a minimum quorum of 10 righteous people to avert judgement. Our Lord Himself attested that these cities would have continued if they had repented.

This underscores the seriousness of the Church praying for, and being a light of unadulterated righteousness in this nation. We seek to be counted in this righteous quorum, and we can do so by first examining our own lives.

May we come before God continually with clean hands and pure hearts so that we may effectively take our place as watchmen on the walls. Revival remains a primary agenda that we must pray and contend for our nation.

3. WE ARE SALT AND LIGHT

Even as the repeal of 377a remains a deeply-divisive issue, we need to be loving and wise. We are called to extend love and care for those who are outside the covenant of faith and we do so by rejoicing in the truth, not compromising on it.

May our doors always be opened to seeking truth. In our daily lives, we will encounter other non-believers, LGBTQ people included, and it is important we actively seek opportunities to express the reality of God's lovingkindness to them.

In the coming days and weeks, our Pastoral Department will be rolling out recommended resources and a guide on some FAQs that you might have. Please discuss them in your cells as we navigate this topic together as a church family. The church needs to be united as one, but we need to be firmly rooted in our convictions and faith.

In Christ' love

Cornerstone Community Church