

LEGALIZATION OF SAME-SEX UNIONS: AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

The legalization of homosexuality in many countries poses today a real social challenge to Christians, and especially to Orthodox believers who dare to declare that homosexuality is religiously an unacceptable lifestyle. Using human rights and freedom of speech as a pretext, secularism developed a legal environment, fueling hatred, disdain, and threats towards traditional Christianity. Today's situation impels Orthodox Christians living in these societies to ask for the Church's guidance in order to acquire the right attitude or perspective on these delicate issues. Thus, this contribution seeks to formulate a pastoral perspective and provide guidance on facing these issues. This pastoral perspective is instituted on having the right understanding of three main subjects: implication of sexual difference; definition of what is natural or contrary to nature; and pastoral therapeutic work of priests. The purpose is to present unpretentious Christian suggestions and reflections that might lead to convey understanding, reconciliation, and ultimately healing.

Keywords: Anthropology, Eschatology, Homosexuality, Legalization, Sociology, Pastoral Care, Reconciliation, Spiritual Life.

From the beginning of the creation God 'made them male and female. For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'; so then, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate (Mark 10, 6-9).

In the past half century, homosexuality has gone from being a mental illness to a legally protected alternate lifestyle. Sodomy has gone from being a crime to a celebrated behavior. Public campaigns promoting the Gay Agenda in the areas of psychology, medicine, education, and politics have been highly successful in