

KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
Policy Statement on Pornography  
Adopted at the 42nd Annual Assembly, October, 1989

So God created human beings in the image of God, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them.

Genesis 1:27

Flee from sexual immorality.  
Do you know your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit,  
who is in you, whom you have received from God?  
You are not your own; you were bought at a price.  
Therefore honor God with your body.

I Corinthians 6:18a, 19-20 (NIV)

As human beings, our sense of self-worth is rooted in our creation and redemption by God. This understanding of our dignity is borne witness to by the Holy Scriptures, and is powerfully related therein to our particular identity as sexual creatures. God wills that we delight in our sexuality, express it in morally wholesome ways, and continue exploring its awesome meaning for our lives today.

In our contemporary American culture, however, a callous indifference -- if not opposition -- to Christian sexual values prevails. Morally positive images of sexuality are rarely communicated, while many of the media presentations inundate us with all types of sexual innuendo and perversion. Pornography has become a major problem nationally. In consideration of all this, the Commission on Religion and Public Policy proposes the following policy statement:

The Kentucky Council of Churches affirms the goodness and beauty of the sexuality with which God created all human beings. Indeed, we sense the need for all churches to take up anew the task of educating persons concerning their sexuality and modeling before the world the highest standards of Christian morality.

Likewise, we acknowledge our pain and grief as we ponder the pervasiveness of pornography in our culture. Therefore, we call upon all levels and branches of government to exercise their constitutional powers in opposing pornography.

We commend our legislative bodies for such effective laws against pornography as exist today. And we ask them to develop and approve stricter laws wherever needed, using the guidelines established by the United States Supreme Court with respect to the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. \*

We urge those in the executive branch to enforce vigorously all our existing laws concerning pornography. We appreciate the efforts of the personnel in all regulatory agencies whom implement anti-pornography legislation, and encourage them in their work on behalf of all citizens. We ask those at every level of the criminal justice system to enforce anti-pornography laws and prosecute, sentence and rehabilitate offenders to the fullest extent possible.

The Kentucky Council of Churches also encourages persons to stand in vigorous opposition to pornography. Both individual efforts and citizen involvement in anti-pornography organizations are to be commended. Churches themselves, at both judicatory and local congregation or parish levels, can urge their members to share in the struggle against pornography.

The cumulative effect of the activities of our homes, communities, and churches can be powerful, indeed, in and of themselves. The use of letters and phone calls to, and meetings with, government officials, merchants, advertisers, and newspapers is indispensable. Even non-violent public demonstrations and boycotts have a legitimate role to play in the sensitizing public opinion and persuading businesses to give up the financial profits which the pornography trade can yield.

As a result of both government action and citizen cooperation, the positive and holistic values of sexual morality can someday be more fully reflected in American culture.

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\* Roth vs. the United States, 1957, and Miller vs. California, 1973.