

Advices & Queries from NPYM Faith & Practice – Sexuality

We do well to look past the outward appearances of orientation and identity to see the quality of all individuals and relationships in our meetings. Just as there is that of God in every person, there is that of God in every relationship that calls upon God. We remain tender toward all relationships founded on integrity, mutual respect, commitment, and love.

When dealing with issues of sexuality and sexual behavior, we strive for an appropriate balance between open, honest discussion and protection of privacy and confidentiality for individual members and attenders.

We take care to avoid sexual behavior based on license, exploitation, oppression, and violence in our personal lives and to witness against such behavior in our meetings and communities.

Parents support their children's healthy sexuality by providing good examples, constructively supporting each child's natural interest, and answering questions lovingly.

Friends are encouraged to maintain accurate resources on issues of sexuality, sexual behavior, and gender identity and to answer questions, especially from children, honestly and appropriately.

While the meeting can and should be a source of abiding love and support to members and attenders, we acknowledge that some situations may require professional intervention and others may require notification of law-enforcement authorities.

- Do we accept and appreciate our sexuality as part of our humanity and as a gift from God? How do we integrate our sexuality and our spirituality?
- How can we help each other be faithful in expressing our sexuality? Do we support members and attenders with love and care relating to their sexuality and gender identity?
- How safe is our meeting? How do we create an environment appropriate for discussion of deeply personal issues?
- How willing are we to talk openly and listen carefully when others' ideas and behavior are different from our own? How our own discomfort or disagreement?

- As individuals and as a meeting community, do we avoid stereotyping and judging people based on their relationships, sexual orientation, or gender identity?
- How do we love and respond to those who have been harmed by sexual discrimination, abuse, or violence? How do we love and respond to those who have committed the discrimination, abuse, or violence?
- Do we know how and when to refer members and attenders for professional help? Do we know how and when to contact legal authorities?