

Redeeming Sexuality: Responding to 377A Repeal

Romans 1.18-32

Speaker:
Snr Ps Beh Soo Yeong

Wednesday Aug 24, 2022

Repealing Section 377A; strengthening marriage

On Monday, The Straits Times interviewed Home Affairs and Law Minister K. Shanmugam on the Government's decision to repeal Section 377A of the Penal Code which criminalises acts between men.



Minister K. Shanmugam said the Government's decision to repeal Section 377A of the Penal Code, which criminalises acts between men, is a landmark step in the evolution of Singapore's legal system. He said the law was outdated and did not reflect the values of a modern, open society. He also mentioned the Government's commitment to strengthening the institution of marriage and family values.

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Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Moving forward with Section 377A entails broader societal concerns

What Singapore does with its colonial-era law that criminalises sex between men goes beyond the law itself and has broader societal concerns, said Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong.

Mr Wong said that it is essential to move forward with the law, but that it also entails broader societal concerns. He mentioned the need to strengthen the institution of marriage and family values, and the importance of ensuring that the law reflects the values of a modern, open society.

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Mr Micklethwait raised the issue of visas for same-sex spouses, who may be legally married elsewhere. Mr Wong said he had seen some of that feedback for people who have faced difficulties with partners, adding: "We have been able to deal with some of that on a case-by-case basis."

THE STRAITS TIMES

Sunday Aug 21, 2022

Religious leaders outline positions on repeal of S377A

They share neutral view of any policy change; maintain stance on marriage and family unit

THEY SHARE NEUTRAL views on whether to repeal Section 377A of the Penal Code, which criminalises acts between men, but maintain their stance on marriage and family values.



Rev. Dr. Lim Joo Kah, Moderator of the Singapore Council of Churches.

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Others which seek to improve the law... "The law is one matter. Views on the law and criminalisation of homosexual behaviour certainly have evolved, have changed, but there are also views around family and marriage, which are different from the first matter, which I have highlighted," he said. "People do feel strongly about the latter, on family values and marriage."

Mr Micklethwait also noted in the interview that United States House Speaker Nancy Pelosi brought up the law during her visit to Singapore earlier this month.

Whether Section 377A should go is something for Singapore and Singaporeans to decide, said Mr Wong. He mentioned the need to strengthen the institution of marriage and family values, and the importance of ensuring that the law reflects the values of a modern, open society.

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Whether it is race or religion, or whether it is regarding sexuality, we know that these are issues where different segments of society hold deep views, and sometimes opposing views."

Hariz Baharudin

1. Our Journey



Our church's learning journey:

- Call to petitions?
- 2019. Teachings on Pornography.
- 2019. Paper and summary written on SSA
- 2020. Sermons on OSA, SSA
- 2022. 2 Sermons + Seminars

2. Biblical understanding on SSA

Rom 1.18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

2. Biblical understanding on SSA

Rom 1.21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

2. Biblical understanding on SSA

Rom 1.25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

2. Biblical understanding on SSA

Rom 1.28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy...

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In Rom 1.21-28, we see three movements in Paul's argument:

1. Vv. 21–24: People “*exchange*” the glory of God for idols—God “*gave them over*” to sexual impurity.
2. Vv. 25–26a: People “*exchange*” the truth of God for a lie—God “*gave them over*” to shameful lusts.
3. Vv. 26b–28: People “*exchange*” natural sexual practices for the unnatural—God “*gave them over*” to a depraved mind to do what ought not to be done.

2. Biblical understanding on SSA

3 truths I shared:

1. Homosexual acts are sinful manifestations of rebellion against God the Creator. Other sinful acts are equally sinful.
2. But forgiveness and wholeness are found in Christ for all of us.
3. Our identity is defined by Christ, not by our sexuality. We are called to be holy and to love others.
4. The community of faith is involved.

3. Nuances of SSA

3 essential nuances:

- a) Homosexual attraction (tendency).
- b) Homosexual acts.
- c) Homosexual activism.

11 SEP (SUN)

SEMINAR 1:

Responding To The Repeal of S377A

18 SEP (SUN)

SEMINAR 2:

"Help, I am confused about my body!"

How can family and church community be a safe place for those who are experiencing or supporting individuals with gender confusion?

Come & understand the language in trans-identification and kind, loving & firm vs gender critical conversations.



**Redeeming
Sexuality
Seminars**

11.45am-1.45pm

Rooms #02-01/02

\$6.00 (Bento Lunch)



4. Tensions of S377A

377A. *Any male person who, in public or private, commits, or abets the commission of, or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any male person of, any act of gross indecency with another male person, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 2 years.*

On the one hand...

- Injustice & discrimination
- SG as a secular state

4. Tensions of S377A

On the other hand...

- Proxy for conservative values regarding marriage and family, education etc
- Fear of reverse discrimination
- Freedom to teach and practice religion
- Pressure to conform and endorse LGBT+ lifestyles and values
- Too imaginative? Not possible?

PM: repeal with safeguards!

5. Our response

1. **Eradicate** any prejudice and pride, and not to hurt

Eradicate
prejudice &
pride

Response to
377A Repeal

5. Our response

1. **Eradicate** any prejudice and pride, and not to hurt.
2. **Encourage** to love God and seek forgiveness. Encourage one another including those with SSA.

Eradicate
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Encourage—
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Response to
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5. Our response

1. **Eradicate** any prejudice and pride, and not to hurt
2. **Encourage** to love God and seek forgiveness. Encourage one another including those with SSA.
3. **Educate** ourselves and our people.

Eradicate
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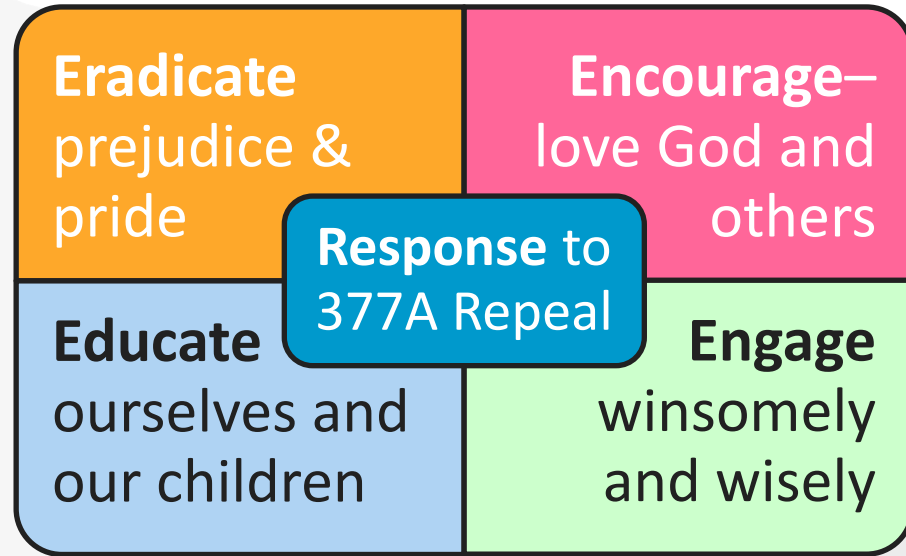
Encourage—
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Response to
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Educate
ourselves and
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5. Our response

1. **Eradicate** any prejudice and pride, and not to hurt
2. **Encourage** to love God and seek forgiveness. Encourage one another including those with SSA.
3. **Educate** ourselves and our people.
4. **Engage** winsomely and wisely.



Conclusion



1. Our journey of learning
2. Biblical understanding on SSA
3. Nuances of SSA
4. Tensions of S377A
5. Our response

We need both truth and love
We need God to help and guide us