



THE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
COALITION



## These Findings May Surprise You

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**Dear Friend,**

John Calvin wrote that "*marriage [between a man and a woman] is a covenant consecrated by God...superior to all human contracts*" and that "*God is the founder of marriage.*"

We Presbyterians from the time of the Reformation to this day have affirmed and continue to affirm these truths. We just did it again in the fourth vote on "fidelity and chastity" as a requirement for ordination in the PC(USA).

No one has done a better job of commentary on the outcome of the recent vote than Rev. Harry Hassall. His work includes thorough analysis of the numbers, presbytery by presbytery, in addition to analysis of the voting history on this matter. His findings may surprise you. I encourage you to read [his report](#). I suspect you will find it both encouraging and challenging.

Earlier this month PC(USA) Research Services issued a summary of findings from their recent survey. Their findings confirm that the vast majority of members and elders in this mainline denomination continue to hold a biblical view of sexuality. Referring to the recent vote to replace "fidelity and chastity" with the new wording of Amendment 08-B, the recent survey found that "Only three in ten members (29%) and elders (29%) would have personally liked the presbyteries to have approved the amendment."

There is no doubt that we will continue to face challenges to biblical faithfulness on this issue brought by a persistent minority. Rev. Hassall concludes:

*It seems apparent that a unique part of the call of God to current generations of disciples throughout the North American Church will be to uphold and repeatedly defend his revealed design for sexual intimacy. This includes the exercise of forgiving grace and forbearance amid attempts of a minority to revise or ignore the clear teaching of Scripture and the continuing unflinching witness of a majority of Christians throughout time and around the globe to uphold that call of the first "General Assembly" in Jerusalem "to shun sexual immorality."*

God is honored by continued faithfulness and obedience to his Word. I encourage you to meet the challenge proactively, with grace and love and determination. Visit our [website](#), and call on us for help and for resources.

Working with you,

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