

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS INFECTION/ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (HIV/AIDS)

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HIV infection, in common use, refers to infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) acquired either from blood or deep body fluid exposure, intimate sexual contact between two or more individuals, or vertical transmission from mother to infant. AIDS refers to advanced stages of HIV infection manifesting with a variety of illnesses resulting from a malfunctioning immune system.

- A. As members of CMDS:
1. We believe God has designated sexual intercourse only for monogamous, heterosexual marriage relationships. Any sexual practice outside such a bond contravenes God's will.
 2. we believe the human body is the temple of God , and that I.V. drug abusers are defiling their bodies
 3. We believe we are responsible to uphold the gospel of Jesus Christ and in that context, to seek and promote truth with respect to HIV/AIDS.
 4. We believe we are to follow Christ's example, showing love and compassion to all people
- B. Therefore, the position of CMDS is:
- 1) The community of Christians in medicine & dentistry in Canada has a responsibility for limiting the spread of HIV and in caring for infected and affected individuals.
 - 2) It is our responsibility and commitment to love and care for all HIV-infected patients, regardless of the way the disease was acquired, the manifestations of the disease, or potential risk to ourselves.
 - 3) It is our responsibility, and that of society, and HIV-infected individuals together, to assist in controlling the transmission of HIV by informing sexual partner(s) or any other individuals who may have been exposed. The interests and need for appropriate counsel of persons exposed to the virus should have priority over the autonomy and confidentiality of HIV-infected individuals.
 - 4) We should commit ourselves to promote the truth about HIV/AIDS and to actively oppose falsehoods, myths and exaggerations.
 - 5) We should commit ourselves to promote lifestyles with a biblical attitude towards sexuality.
 - 6) We should commit ourselves to assist in equipping the Christian community for ministry in the area of HIV/AIDS and related issues.