

A Christian Response to Homosexuality

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Homosexuality and the Bible

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Naturalism vs. Theism

Naturalism

Theism

What is, is OK

Warped by the Fall

Homosexual feelings
are natural

Homosexual feelings
are abnormal

All homosexual activity
is a viable choice

All homosexual
activity is sin

No guilt

Jesus forgives sinners

What Does the Bible Say?

Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom - both young and old - surrounded the house. They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them." Genesis 19: 4-5

What Does the Bible Say?

Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.
Leviticus 18:22

If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable.
Leviticus 20:13

What Does the Bible Say?

Romans 1:18, 24

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, . . .

Therefore, God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

What Does the Bible Say?

Romans 1:26-27

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men . . .

What Does the Bible Say?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be **deceived**: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexual offenders . . . will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you, but . . .

Homosexuality and Ethics

- Is homosexuality natural or unnatural?
- Is homosexuality moral or immoral?
- Does God make some people gay or is it a perversion of His plan?

Natural or Unnatural?

- Romans 1
- What is, is warped by the Fall
- Simply feeling natural doesn't make it natural
- Homosexual behavior exists in nature as play or a display of hierarchy and dominance, not lifestyle

Moral or Immoral?

- Any sexual activity outside of heterosexual marriage is fornication (immorality)
- 44 references to fornication in the Bible
- The Bible never refers to homosexuality in a positive context

God-Ordained or Perversion?

- God would not condemn His own design
- Relationship of David and Jonathan was not homosexual, 2 Samuel 1:26
- Homosexuality results from trying to meet God-given needs in ungodly ways

What Causes a Homosexual Orientation?

- Body (Biological)
 - No evidence
- Soul (Psychological)
 - Gender identity problem
- Spirit (Spiritual)
 - Sinful response to unmet

Body

- Brain Structures
- Twin Study
- “Gay Gene”

There is no proof of a biological component to homosexuality

Soul

heterosexuals

- Free choice - James Dean
- Homosexuality is rampant in prisons
- Feminist statement

Soul lesbians

- 66% of the women in one study reported some kind of abuse (one study 90%)
- Emotional dependency (“I’ll die without you”)
- Usually, the emotional connection comes first, then the physical

Soul

homosexual men

- Family stereotype - Domineering mother and passive or absent father
- Hurtful relationship with dad
- Unmet emotional needs for validation and intimacy with other guys
- Not clear on what it means to be masculine: men = mystery

Soul

Homosexuality's origin is not a sexual problem but a relational one. It started in an unhealthy relationship, and may be resolved through healthy relationships.

Joe Dalla

Counselor and Author, *Desires in Conflict*

Spirit

- Sinful response to hurt or need (fig leaves)
- Sin of perpetrator against victim
- Idolatry: choosing the creature (self and sexual partners) over the Creator
- Addictive nature of sexual sin

Wouldn't predispositions let a homosexual "off the hook?"

- Predispositions: a possible genetic weakness, emotional deficits
- Predispositions make it easier to sin. They never excuse the sin.
- All of us have "besetting sins" to which we are prone.

The Church's Response: two extremes

- Proponents of homosexuality attempt to explain away the Biblical condemnation of homosexual sin
- The other extreme believes that homosexuality is one of the “unforgivable sins.”

What's the difference between homosexual temptation and sin?

- Unasked-for, uncultivated sexual desires for a person of the same sex constitute temptation, not sin.
- The Bible specifically condemns homosexual practices, but not undeveloped homosexual feelings (temptation).
- Martin Luther

The World's View



The diagram consists of two large yellow arrows pointing to the right, positioned horizontally. The first arrow is on the left and contains the word 'Desires' in blue. The second arrow is on the right and contains the word 'Behavior' in blue. The arrows are set against a black background, with a pink triangular shape in the top-left corner.

Desires

Behavior

Biblical View



Temptation

Will

Sin

Can a homosexual truly be saved?

- Homosexuality is not a heaven or hell issue
- I Cor 6: "...and such **were** some of you."
- Sanctification takes a long time
- "I'm a Christian with problems."
- Can a person be a Christian and be a bigot? Or a rage-aholic? Or prideful?

Someone I love is gay.

- Take your cue from the Lord Jesus: Compassion without compromising holiness
- Cultivate a humble heart
- Seek to make him/her feel understood
- Remember: homosexuals are **broken and deceived**
- Be a grace-giver
- The power of prayer

How do I respond to gays?

- If the person is a Christian
- If the person is not a Christian
- Remember that rage and anger are covering pain.
- Never forget the element of spiritual deception.

Jesus loves. . .

. . . people with
same-gender
attraction