

# What Does the Bible Say About Homosexuality?

I will be discussing homosexuality as it applies to both genders. I am not discussing differences between homosexuality of lesbianism. I will be using primarily male pronouns but with a message intended for homosexuality of either gender.

## Introduction

I think we already agree on the conclusion I will come to half way through this lesson, of whether or not homosexuality is sinful, but I want to make sure we come to this conclusion in the right way for the right reasons, and that we have a proper understanding of what that conclusion really means. We need to have a proper Biblical understanding of homosexuality so we can have proper Biblical conduct in regard to homosexuality.

## Is Homosexuality Sinful?

- We need to know this before we can make any decisions about what we should do about the issue of homosexuality.
  - If it is *not* sinful, we need to know that so we can help others understand that as well.
  - If it *is* sinful, we need to know, understand *why* it is sinful, and what to do about it.

## What is sin?

- What is sin?
  - I Jn 3:4: *Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.*
  - I Jn 5:17: *All wrongdoing is sin.*
  - Sins are also called:
    - Transgressions: stepping too far
    - Trespass: taking a wrong step
    - Iniquity: the opposite of what's right. Unrighteousness.
  - Sin is something that breaks, goes beyond, or doesn't conform to God's standards.
- What does *NOT* determine whether something is sinful or not?
  - Our culture
    - Good: "It doesn't feel right to tell someone they're sinful for living the lifestyle they want to live"
    - Bad: "Of course homosexuality is sinful! It's unnatural and gross!"
  - The consequences
    - Good: "How can homosexuality be sinful? No harm comes from it. Love is love.
    - Bad: "Of course homosexuality is sinful! Just look at all the STD's those people get!"
  - These might be related to the truth, but ultimately they are all subjective judgments by humans and are not authority for determining something to be sinful or not.
- What *DOES* determine whether something is sinful or not?
  - If it breaks God's Law and standards.

- Only the Law maker can determine what is or isn't sinful, and God is the only lawmaker.
  - Jms 5:12: *There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy.*
  - EX: Eating pork was sinful for the Jews because God says so. It is no longer sinful because God says so.
- It is not a human judgment or earthly consequence that determines if something is sinful, but God alone.
- Since scripture is where we find the revealed will of God, it can be the only source we use to definitively answer the question.

## Does Homosexuality Conform to God's Standards?

- We knew something is sinful when it doesn't conform to God's standards, so to determine whether homosexuality is sinful or not, we need to learn what God's standards are.
- Before considering the specific issue of homosexuality, let's consider God's standards on the sexuality.
- **God's Standards for Sexuality**
  - Abstain from sexual immorality
    - I Thess 4:3: *For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor*
  - God's definition of immorality: looking and lusting
    - Mat 5:28: *but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart*
  - When sexuality is permitted and forbidden:
    - Heb 13:4: *Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled, for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*
    - Permitted in marriage
    - Forbidden outside of marriage.
      - Fornication: sex outside of a marriage vow.
      - Adultery: sex that breaks a marriage vow.
  - The standard:
    - A sexual relationship with your spouse is acceptable.
    - Any sexual activity, even including lust, with anybody besides your spouse is sexual immorality.
- If we know that proper sexual conduct depends on marriage, then we also need to understand God's standards for marriage to be able to determine whether our sexual conduct is acceptable or sinful.
- **God's Standards for Marriage**
  - Created by God for a male and female
    - Gen 2:24: *For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.*
    - Marriage isn't a cultural creation, therefore, culture doesn't have the right to determine what is or isn't marriage.
    - When God made the world, marriage was part of that creation. He has the right to decide what marriage is. Anything else is not according to His design, and is therefore counterfeit, or false.
  - Affirmed by Jesus to be between male and female

- Mat 19:4-7: *And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ' For this reason A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh ' ? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.*
- Jesus endorses the age old description of marriage as being binding in the present day. His description includes the male and female genders.
- Designed for lawful sexual relations between male and female so that sexual temptations can be controlled
  - I Cor 7:2: *But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.*
  - Paul confirms that the man is to have his woman, and vice versa.
- Designed with specific responsibilities for both genders
  - Eph 5:22, 25: *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord...Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.*
  - This means there has to be a male and female in the marriage to fulfill the roles.
- Anytime marriage is spoken of in scripture, it is only in reference to male and female.

### **Conclusion:**

If sexuality is only lawful in marriage, and marriage is only between a male and female, that means people of the same sex cannot lawfully marry, and therefore neither engage in lawful sexual conduct. Since marriage is God's creation, His standards are binding regardless of how culture changes.

God's standards on sexuality and marriage alone are sufficient authority to condemn homosexuality. God doesn't have to specifically condemn something for it to be seen as sinful. God declares what His standard is, and something that doesn't conform to that is necessarily seen as sinful.

EX: Divorce wasn't stated to be sinful in Gen 2:24, but divorce doesn't conform to the standard of male and female becoming one flesh. Therefore, Jesus condemns divorce by simply citing God's original standard of marriage, and how divorce doesn't conform to that standard.

This is the case with homosexuality. There is no lawful same sex marriage, so there is no lawful context for homosexual conduct. This means that homosexual activity will always be sinful.

## **Does the Bible Explicitly Condemn Homosexuality?**

Though homosexuality is implicitly addressed by considering God's established standards, we should look to see if it is addressed directly in scripture. Are there passages about homosexuality in the Bible?

### **• Old Testament Passages About Homosexuality**

- Sodom and Gomorrah
  - Gen 18:20: *And the Lord said, " The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.*
  - Gen 19:5: *and they called to Lot and said to him, " Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.*
  - The first reference to homosexuality. It is not a command from God, but an example.

- The city was notorious for sin, and their homosexuality is the example of wickedness we read about.

*\*Perhaps it wasn't the homosexuality that was sinful, but the attempted rape.*

- Law of Moses
  - Lev 18:22: *You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.*
  - Lev 20:13: *If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act.*
  - This is a specific command condemning homosexuality.
  - This isn't describing rape, but consensual sexual conduct between the same sex.

*\* But this is the Old Covenant. There are many things condemned in the Old Covenant that are permitted in the New Covenant. Eating certain meats for instance. Perhaps homosexuality is only condemned in the Old Covenant.*

#### • **New Testament Passages About Homosexuality**

- I Cor 6:9: *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.*
  - Here is clearly states that effeminate nor homosexuals will inherit the kingdom (receive their place in the kingdom now or go to heaven).
  - Effeminate is a word that means "soft/delicate" (Mat 11:8), and homosexual means "man bed". These two words would be a reference to the practice of pederasty, which was a young boy being an older man's personal sex servant.

*\* Perhaps only pederasty is condemned, and this is only saying they will not go to heaven. Doesn't necessarily mean it is sinful.*

- I Tim 1:9-10: *realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching.*
  - Here is it not speaking of pederasty, but just of homosexuality in general. It is grouped in with things that are lawless, rebellious, ungodly, sinful, unholy, and profane. It is clearly seen to be sinful.

*\* Perhaps it's still referring to some kind of rape or abuse. Or maybe they haven't translated the Greek word properly. Maybe it shouldn't even say homosexuality.*

- Rom 1:26-27: *For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*
  - This isn't a question of how a certain word should be translated. This is an explicit description of the actions.
  - This isn't speaking about rape or abuse. It speaks of men and women abandoning their natural function and burning with desire toward one another. This is describing consensual homosexual practice.

- It refers to consensual homosexual practice as degrading passion, unnatural, indecent, and deserving of penalty, and contrary to sound doctrine.

As difficult as it may be to accept, the Bible implicitly and explicitly declares homosexual conduct to be sinful practice. Those who adhere to the Bible as God's authoritative word must come to that conclusion as well if they want to be consistent in their beliefs.

## What is the Sin of Homosexuality?

This might seem obvious, but a lack of clarity here has led to many misunderstandings and bad practices on the part of Christians.

### Attraction Vs. Action

- Attraction
  - Is it sinful for someone to be attracted to the same sex? No.
- Action
  - Is it sinful for someone to engage in sexual activity with the same sex. Yes.
- You might be surprised that I said being attracted to the same sex is not sinful. Isn't being attracted to the same sex homosexuality? No it isn't. The Bible does not condemn the attraction to the same sex as sinful behavior.
  - EX: Fornication
    - Am I guilty of fornication? Am I a fornicator?
    - What is fornication? Sexual immorality with someone I am not married to. Sexual immorality is anywhere between lust to intercourse.
    - When am I guilty of fornication? When I commit sexual immorality with women I'm not married to.
    - When am I a fornicator? When I commit sexual immorality with women I'm not married to.
    - I am not married, but I'm attracted to women. Every woman I'm attracted to is a woman I'm not married to. Does that attraction make me guilty of fornication? Does that attraction make me a fornicator?
    - No it does not. God gave me that sexual attraction, and He expects and demands me to live with that sexual attraction according to His standards: no lust or sexual activity.
- The same is true for someone attracted to the same sex.
  - The action of homosexuality is condemned
    - Lev 18:22: *You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female*
    - Lev 20:13: *If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act.*
    - Rom 1:26-27: *For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*
    - Someone is only guilty of these sins when they commit these sinful deeds.

When I say attraction, I am not referring to lust. Lusting is a choice to have look and have sinful thoughts. An attraction is not the same thing as lusting.

- The attraction to the same sex is not condemned
  - Just as a heterosexual single male is not condemned for having an attraction to a woman he is not permitted to have sexual activity with, so a “homosexual” male is not condemned for having an attraction to another male he is not permitted to have sexual activity with.

God does not view those with attracted to the same sex as being homosexuals. God views those who engage in homosexual activity as being homosexual.

It is helpful to only use the term homosexual for someone who has embraced this lifestyle. If someone is attracted to the same sex, but isn't engaged in sexual activity with the same sex, ew can refer to them simply as have “same sex attraction”. This separates the mere attraction from the actual sin.

*\* Is being attracted to the same sex a choice? No. People can choose what sexual activities to engage in, but they can't decide to just not be sexually attracted to things. God made us with sexual attractions. To say someone with homosexual attractions just needs to stop being attracted to the same sex is like someone telling you to just decide to stop being attracted to the opposite sex.*

## **Can a Homosexual Repent and Be Saved?**

- First, can a fornicator repent and be saved? Yes. How? By deciding to stop committing the sin of fornication, and being baptized into Christ.
- The same is true for people who practice homosexuality. They can decide to stop committing homosexuality, and be baptized into Christ.
- This is what the fornicators and homosexuals at Corinth did:
  - I Cor 6:9, 11: *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals... Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*
- A homosexual's repentance doesn't require him no longer being attracted to the same sex as much as a fornicator isn't required to stop being attracted to women.

## **Is Homosexuality Extra Sinful?**

The sin of homosexuality gets a lot of controversial attention. We see the Christian community getting mad, using strong language, even protesting things related to homosexuality. The Christian community doesn't do this about other sins, so homosexuality must be a worse sin. Is this true?

### **Is the Sin of Homosexuality Worse Than Other Sins?**

- There are some reasons why people might consider homosexuality to be worse than other sins.
  1. Used to exemplify the depravity of a nation.
    - Gen 18:20: *And the Lord said, “ The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.*

- Rom 1:25-26: *For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions**; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural.*
- When God spoke of how evil peoples in these passages became, He uses the practice of homosexuality as the example of their depravity.
- I think I can say Biblically that homosexuality will be more prevalent the further a nation goes from God's standards, and therefore the prevalence of homosexuality can be a sign of a nation's depravity.
- However, we're not dealing with saving a nation. We are dealing with saving people. Homosexuality might be a sign that our nation is getting worse, but homosexual behavior doesn't necessarily make an individual worse.

## 2. Called an abomination.

- Lev 18:22: *You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an **abomination**.*
- Lev 20:13: *If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed **a detestable act**.*
- If the Bible calls it an abomination, it seems to be worse than other sins. However, consider some other things that the Bible calls an abomination:
  - Idolatry (Deut 7:25, 13:14)
  - Putting prostitute money into temple (Deut 23:18)
  - Taking back the wife you divorced after she was with another man (Deut 24:4)
  - Unfair business (Deut 25:16)
  - Haughtiness, pride, violence, lies, conspiracy, false witness, running to evil, spreading strife (Prov 6:16-19)
- Yes homosexuality is an abomination, but so are these other things. We need to be consistent with scripture by seeing all of these things as equal abominations.

## 3. Is unnatural

- Rom 1:26-27: *For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is **unnatural**, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*
- Jd 1:7: *just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in **gross immorality and went after strange flesh**, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire*
- It might be easier to see homosexuality is being extremely sinful because it seems so gross to you because it isn't natural.
- It might seem like homosexuality is proven to be sin because it is against the design of nature.
- Keep in mind, Christians do *many* unnatural things. For example, not committing sexual immorality. It's very natural to do that, but we aren't trying to be the natural man (I Cor 2:14).
- It is unnecessary to see homosexuality as extra sinful just because it's unnatural.

## Homosexuality is a Form of Sexual Immorality

- We need to see homosexuality for what it is, a form of sexual immorality.
- It's in the same category as fornication, and adultery. Those are also equally sexually immoral.

- Jms 2:10-11: *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. For He who said, "DO not commit adultery," also said, "DO not commit murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.*
- All sins are not the same, but they all make us equally guilty.
- Raise you hand if you've struggle with the temptation of sexual immorality. You are in the category with someone who struggles with homosexuality.
- We need to be firm in our stance against the practice of homosexuality, just as we are firm on our stance against other practices of fornication.
- We need to be merciful in our hearts towards those struggling with homosexuality, just as we need to be merciful in our hearts towards those who are struggling with fornication.

## Conclusion

Yes homosexuality is sinful but:

- A person is not hated by God because they are attracted to the same sex. Someone can be acceptable to God even if they are attracted to the same sex.
- A person isn't going to hell because they are attracted to the same sex. Someone can go to heaven even though they are attracted to the same sex.
- To repent from homosexuality, a person doesn't have to stop being attracted to the same sex. They just have to repent from homosexual activity.

# How Should Christians Handle Homosexuality?

Maybe some new concepts. Please ask questions after the lesson and anytime in the future.

## Introduction

EX: Camp kid. Changed my life. I learned about homosexuality when I started helping a Christian brother who struggled with homosexuality.

I had to learn how to be helpful to anyone who has this temptation. I want the same for you, because I want you to know how to be Jesus as well.

This lesson is directed to help Christians who don't struggle with homosexual temptations to know how they should handle homosexuality.

- How should I respond to homosexuality in the world around me?
- How should I respond to the lost who are living a homosexual lifestyle?
- How should I respond to my brothers and sisters in Christ who have homosexual temptations?



This lesson calls for Christians to respond in the right way.

Many Christians have...

- Responded sinfully with cruelty.
- Done nothing at all.
  
- This has happened because we are ignorant on this issue, and we often remain ignorant because we are afraid of homosexuality.
- Christ is fearless, and He would know exactly what to do. Let's look at scripture so we can discern how to handle homosexuality like Jesus would.

## Is Homosexuality an Extreme Sin?

- We think homosexuality is an extreme sin, so we don't know what to do about it.
- Homosexuality is ultimately just another form of sexual immorality.
  - Jms 2:10-11: guilty in one point of the Law is guilty in all.
  - I Cor 6:9-11: those who committed those sins were grouped in with many other kinds of sins. There was no special attention given to that sin. They were saved by the same thing that saves anybody else.
- Scripture doesn't tell us that homosexuality is a special sin. Therefore we need to do with it the same way we deal with other sins.
- Therefore, it is practical to compare handling homosexuality to how we handle fornication.
- Some specifics will be different, but as a whole, handle it as any other sin.

## Do Christians Need to Take an Extreme Stance Against Homosexuality?

- Because homosexuality seems like an extreme sin to some Christians, they resort to extreme methods when reacting to homosexuality.
- Are we supposed to?

### What Are Extreme Measures Christians Have Taken?

- What are some ways Christians have reacted to homosexuality?

#### 1. Cruelty

- Harshness, cruelty, violence, hate.
- Is this the way God wants us to respond?
  - Deut 7:25: *The graven images of their gods you are to burn with fire; you shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, or you will be snared by it, for it is an abomination to the Lord your God.*
  - Acts 19:37: *For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess.*



- Idolatry is an abomination, however, Paul didn't respond to idolatry with robbing, desecrating, or blaspheming. Is there any reason to dealing with sin in a sinful way? No. These actions are not justified.
- Do we treat other sins with such cruelty? No. So why is homosexuality different?

## 2. Being Judgmental

- Accusing, criticizing, harsh language with sense of compassion or purpose in our speech.
- For example, speaking boldly condemning homosexuality with no real thought of who you are actually trying to help in the process.
  - Jms 2:12-13: *So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.*
  - Col 4:6: *Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.*
  - Eph 4:29: *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.*
- We need to speak as people who have been forgiven by Jesus. If we endlessly condemn homosexuals without any understanding or compassion, then God will be content to judge us in the same way. Instead we need to make sure all our words have a positive purpose.
- We speak against the sins of sexual immorality, but we do so with an understanding that we are sinners who struggle with them as well. The same needs to be done with homosexuality.

## 3. Disassociation

- We think it's sinful to talk to a homosexual coworker or classmate because we think we are supporting sin by being friendly with them. We choose to ignore them completely.
  - I Cor 5:9-12: *I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.*
- We associate, talk with, do business, eat with (I Cor 10:27) unbelievers. We don't judge outsiders. It's not sinful to associate with people who commit sexual immorality. The same is true of people who commit homosexuality.
  - Eph 5:7-10: *Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them.*
- We draw the line when it comes to partaking in the deeds with unbelievers.

\* *Is the Bible telling us to take these extreme measures? Is this what Jesus would be doing if He were here today?*

## Christians Should Take the Bible's Stance

- We need to take the Bible's stance: homosexuality is a form of sexual immorality and is sinful.
- Though we don't need to see it as some extreme sin, we need to hold to how the Bible identified it.
- This is a hard position to hold for two reasons:
  1. Worldly influence
    - The world is working very hard, especially through media, to make homosexuality globally accepted and celebrated. Media is trying to push homosexuality as being completely normal and fine.
    - That influence will weigh heavy on us and convince us to accept homosexuality as an acceptable practice contrary to what the Bible says (1 Cor 15:33).
  2. Worldly Rejection
    - The world doesn't accept God's word, so it won't understand when we try to uphold His standards (1 Pet 4:4).
    - If we continue to hold that homosexuality is sinful, the world will see us as the equivalent of hateful racists.
    - We need to hold to the truth regardless of what the world says. We need to accept any persecution that may come.
      - Mat 10:22: *You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.*
      - Mat 10:24-25: *A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household.*

*\* Treat others the way you want to be treated. If you want the world to understand you and not be hateful, should you be that way to others?*

Might be some questions here. I hope you understand me properly. Ask me to clarify if necessary.

## Christians and Homophobia

- If we take the Biblical stance that homosexuality is sinful, we will be accused of homophobia.
- Let's consider what homophobia is to see how we should handle being labeled homophobic, and to see if we are in fact homophobic.

### Why is condemning homosexuality so controversial?

- Christians consider many things to be sinful, so why is it so controversial for us to consider homosexuality to be sinful?
  1. Homosexuality has no apparent harmful consequences.
    - I'm not saying homosexuality has no harmful consequences, but to the world, there is no harm in two adults having consensual sex regardless of their genders.
    - Since they don't see any harm in it, Christians just seem like stiff control freaks trying to push their views onto others when it isn't necessary.
  2. Homosexuality is considered to be who someone is, rather than what they do.
    - The world doesn't see homosexuality as what someone does, but who someone is.

- Therefore they view Christians saying homosexuality is sinful to be equivalent of saying being black is sinful.

*\* Born gay? People push the idea that people are born gay. It is hard to condemn homosexuality if it's the way a person was born. There is no conclusive proof of this.*

### **What is homophobia?**

- Homophobia according to the world
  - The world's view of homophobia is anyone who doesn't accept, support, or even celebrate homosexuality. This of course includes those who would say it is a sinful.
  - The world sees it this way because they consider homosexual to be the person rather than the practice.
- Homophobia according to the dictionary
  - An extreme and irrational aversion to homosexuality and homosexual people.
  - This would refer to the extreme measures we mentioned at the beginning of this lesson.
- Are Christians homophobic for saying homosexuality is sinful?
  - Are we forni-phobic for saying fornication is sinful? Or drunki-phobic for saying drunkenness is sinful?
  - No. Saying that a person's decisions are sinful is not being afraid of them.

### **How are Christians homophobic?**

- Even though declaring homosexuality to be sin isn't homophobic, Christians have found some other ways to respond to the issue of homosexuality with fear.
  1. Blaming the person for their homosexual attraction
    - Just as the gay lobby will say that people are born gay so that it's *hard* to condemn it, Christians will blame people for their homosexual attraction so it's *easier* to condemn it.

*\* Born gay? Christians will reject the idea that people are born gay because it wouldn't make sense for God to make something have homosexual attraction if He doesn't want them to commit homosexuality. That discrepancy scares us because it wouldn't seem fair. Therefore, for fear or blaming God, we are quick to blame a person's homosexual attraction on them. Is this the right thing to do?*

- The Assumption: a person's homosexual attraction his own fault
  - Since homosexuality is a sinful practice, we assume that people get homosexual attraction by being sinful. Therefore, the person is to blame.
  - True? In some cases, a sinful lifestyle can lead to homosexuality as well.
    - Men in prison.
    - Excessive sexual promiscuity.
- The truth: there are people who grow up to have homosexual attraction by no decision or fault of his own.
  - Those who are molested at a young age.
  - Others who just grow up into puberty with exclusively homosexual attraction apart from any previous sexual activity.

I'm saying these things because I know it to be true from experiences with people I know.

*\* I do not believe people are born gay, but I will not comment on that now because those are judgments outside of scripture. I will say this however, whether people are born gay or not it doesn't make too much of a practical difference, because in many cases, there are people who reach the age of puberty with exclusively homosexual attraction. That's challenging to accept, but it's the truth.*

- The reason:
  - It seems to be unfair that people could have same sex attraction even though it wasn't their fault, and that scares us.
  - So we blame people for their own homosexual attraction because that's the easiest way for us to deal with it. We don't get involved.

2. We condemn people for the attraction, not the action.

Attraction ≠ Lust

- The assumption: a person chooses to be attracted to the same sex.
  - We assume people choose to be attracted to the same sex because they are evil perverts that want to do evil things.
  - Therefore the person is sinful because he is attracted to the same sex.
- The truth: a person's sexual attraction is not a choice
  - People can't just decide to not be attracted to what attracts them.
  - EX: what if you proposed to your girlfriend and she only agrees to marry you if you are no longer attracted to any other women. Is that reasonable?
  - Yes we can choose to not take actions based on those attractions, but the attraction is not just someone's choice (although there are things that can be done to possibly change a person's attraction in the future).
  - A person is not condemned for being attracted to the same sex.
- The reason:
  - It seems to be unfair that people could have same sex attraction even if they don't want it, and that scares us.
  - So we blame people for their own homosexual attraction because that's the easiest way for us to deal with it. We don't get involved.

3. Believing that Christians don't struggle with this temptation

- The assumption: no one in the church or born in a Christian family will have homosexual attraction.
  - Since we assume that homosexuality is the result of perverse sin and a person's choice, then no one in the church or raised in our homes will do those things or make that choice.
  - Therefore, no one in our churches or homes will ever have homosexual temptations.
- The truth: our members and children struggle with homosexuality
  - There are people in the church and in our homes that struggle with this temptation.
  - As we evangelize and bring people in from the world, some of them will have this temptation.
  - As our children grow up in this complicated world, some will have this temptation.

\* I'm saying all these things based on the fact that I know who these people are, and I know their hearts. I know people who grew up in Christian homes, want to serve God, but are tempted with homosexuality.

- The reason:
  - We are afraid to think about Christians having this temptation, so we try to believe that it will never happen.
  - We dismiss it as a problem of the world so we won't have to deal with it ourselves. We do this out of fear.

## What Would Jesus Do?

- We need to stop being afraid and pretending like this sin is not our problem. It is something we have to be ready and willing to deal with and help.
- That's what Jesus would do. Let's look at His example.

### 1. Love all people

- *Mat 8:2-3: And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.*
- There were some people that no one would've gone near, but when they needed help, Jesus was willing to reach out and touch them, because He could heal them.
- Are there some people that you refuse to help because of how they act, talk, walk? Would Jesus refuse to help them?
- We shouldn't be afraid to reach out to any person because we have something that can heal them.
- (I'm not including people who will be tempted by the people they are trying to help though).

### 2. Have compassion on all people

- *Mat 9:10-13: Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, " Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard this, He said, " It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: ' I desire compassion, and not sacrifice, ' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*
- There were people that the religious leaders saw as not deserving any help. Jesus was willing to help them because He was compassionate to see how much they really needed the help.
- There are some people we see as being so evil they don't deserve our help. Instead we should have compassion to see how much help they truly need.
- Consider the extra emotional difficulties someone who has same sex attraction will face when trying serve Christ:
  - Previously ostracized, ridiculed by church and world.
  - Not accepted by church (because there is a lack of compassion or understanding for people with same sex attraction), not accepted by the world (because they aren't embracing their homosexual attraction).

- Overwhelming sense of knowing they can't get married and have family, or having lawful sexual intimacy.
- Feeling like they are a mistake, and aberration, like they will never be acceptable to God.
- Dealing with the lies and misinformation of the world.
- Seeing Christians act ignorant, hateful, hurtful, inconsiderate toward homosexuality.
- Instead of blaming and judging people that have this temptation, we need to be ready to have compassion for them and the great difficulties they face.

### 3. Be someone that anyone can come to for help

- Lk 7:37-39: *And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.*
- There were people that had no one to go to because no one cared about them. Everyone was too judgmental. When this woman saw Jesus' compassion, she knew she could go to Him for help. She knew she could trust Him to be understanding and kind.
- In the same way, our compassion and kindness need to proceed us so that people will be willing to trust us as someone they can go to for help, no matter what they struggle with.
- Churches are full of people who will quickly condemn homosexuality, but there are children in the church who have homosexual temptations. They are too afraid to tell anyone, so they keep silent. One day, they just give up and reject the church for its lack of compassion and fully embrace a homosexual lifestyle.
- We can't be making fun and calling things "gay".
- We need to be able to help people realize that their faith can save them so that they can go in peace, rather than die in despair.

## Conclusion

- We need to treat this sin as any sin, and respond the way Jesus would respond.
- Let's hold to the truth that it is sinful, while being willing to show the love and compassion for all people that we see Jesus exhibit.

# What Should Someone Do If They Have Same Sex Attraction?

## Introduction

- This lesson are for those who have same sex attraction but are wanting to live a life serving Jesus and following God's standards.
- This lesson will help you believe that it's possible, and help you know some things to help you know how to do it.

## Get Understanding

- Understand the sin
  - The action is the sin
  - The attraction is not the sin
    - Change the attraction?
      - You can work towards that if you want.
      - There are groups and certain therapies that can address that.
      - Some people have had changes in their attraction. Others have not.
    - You don't have to change the attraction to go to heaven
      - You might prefer if your attraction was changed, but God doesn't demand that as necessary for repentance.
      - Feeling the need to change your attraction is overwhelming because it feels out of your power.
      - Therefore, it shouldn't be your primary concern, because it isn't God's primary concern (we will look at God's primary concern in the next point).
      - Your salvation doesn't depend on changing your same sex attraction, so don't depend your devotion to God on whether or not your attraction changes. Serve Him regardless.
    - You can repent
      - I Cor 6:9-11: *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*
      - You don't have to change attraction, but you do have to change your actions which is something you can do, and something that people have done in the past.
- Understand God's view of you
  - You are not condemned for having the attraction. You don't have to feel like you're always sinful and unacceptable to Him.
  - You are not a freak. God loves you just as much as He loves anyone.



- Zacchaeus, the sinful woman
- Isa 56:1-7: *Thus says the Lord, "Preserve justice and do righteousness, For My salvation is about to come And My righteousness to be revealed. "How blessed is the man who does this, And the son of man who takes hold of it; Who keeps from profaning the sabbath, And keeps his hand from doing any evil." Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from His people." Nor let the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." For thus says the Lord, "To the eunuchs who keep My sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant, To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial, And a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off. "Also the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the Lord, To be His servants, every one who keeps from profaning the sabbath And holds fast My covenant; Even those I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples*
- The gospel is so that all can be loved and saved.

## Get Pure

- If it isn't necessary to change attraction, then what are you supposed to do? The same thing as everyone else.
- Pursue purity
  - I Thess 4:3-5: *For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God.*
- How do you pursue purity with same sex attraction?
  - Same standard for you as anyone else: No sexual pleasures outside marriage.
    - Heb 13:4: *Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*
    - God is not demanding anymore out of you than any other unmarried person.
    - I am a 30 year old unmarried person. I have to live by God's standards of purity of celibacy while single. If I am doing it, then you can too.
  - Difference: Those with heterosexual attraction can have a heterosexual marriage and intimacy. Those of homosexual attraction cannot have lawful homosexual marriage and intimacy.
    - Someone with homosexual attraction can marry someone of the opposite sex if they want to have a wife and family even if they aren't sexually attracted.
    - But if you don't want to do that, you still can't lawfully marry the same sex, so you'll have to remain unmarried.
    - The solution is a life of celibacy.
      - Mat 19:10-12: *The disciples \*said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry." But He said to them, " Not all men can accept this statement, but only those to whom it has been given. For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept this, let him accept it.*
        - Some are born eunuchs. For some reasons possibly beyond your control, marriage might not be the best option. You can still be in the kingdom.
  - Is a life of celibacy unreasonable for God to expect?
    - My aunt, aunt, uncle never married. I'm still not married.

- Paul, Daniel, Jeremiah, the Ethiopian Eunuch, and Jesus all lived unmarried celibate lives.
  - I Cor 7:32-35: *But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.*
    - Not only is it possible and reasonable, there are benefits of not being married.
  - I Cor 7:29: *But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none.*
    - The reason we can live without marriage, is because life is short. In eternity, marriage will be as if it never was.
  - Mat 22:30: *For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.*
    - after all, there is no marriage in heaven anyways.
- Is this hard? Yes. But the kingdom needs saints willing to prove to the world that love for God is worth more than earthly comfort and sexual pleasure.
  - Other Christians, let's not be a stumbling block trying to convince everyone that they are a failure if they aren't married.

## Get Help

- Get help from God
  - This is an extra-complicated temptation that will bring extra emotional struggles.
  - You'll need to frequently take this to God
    - I Pet 5:7: *casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*
      - There will be times when you feel completely alone, and no one cares or understands. The Lord cares, He understands. You need to be going to Him so that you believe that.
    - Phi 4:6-7: *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
      - You are going to have many anxieties and worries. You need to be going to God will all of them so He can carry you.
- Get help from others
  - The devil is looking to kill those who are alone and isolated
    - I Pet 5:8: *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*
  - You need to be joined to other people so that he can't cause you to fall
    - Prov 18:1: *Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.*
    - Eccl 4:12: *And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.*

- If you haven't yet, you need to tell someone
  - Jms 5:16: *Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*
    - You need accountability.
    - You need encouragement.
    - You need advice.
    - You need prayers.
  - If you are a male that struggles with same sex attraction, please know that I am someone you can confide in. If you are female, I know someone that can help you.

## Get Love

- We all need love from people
  - Gen 2:18: *Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone.*
    - God made humans to need relationships with other humans.
    - We all need companions and friends.
    - You might want romantic and intimate love, but perhaps that's not an option.
    - You still need love.
- We all need love from God
  - Rom 8:38-39: *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
  - He is the one who can strengthen us to do anything
    - Phi 4:13: *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*
  - He is the only motivation that can help us.
    - Ps 62:5-7: *My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God.*

## Conclusion

- So let's do it for Him!
  - I Cor 6:20: *For you have been bought with a price:therefore glorify God in your body.*