

## Is Homosexuality Wrong & Are You Born Gay?

I. God's will for sexual expression is carried out in the permanent covenant of marriage between one male and one female (Genesis 2:24).

<sup>24</sup> **For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.** Genesis 2:24 (NASB)

II. The Bible consistently treats homosexual **behavior** as sin and a deviation from God's perfect will for mankind.

- The men of Sodom who sought to have "relations" with Lot's visitors are pictured as acting unrighteously (Gen. 19:1-11).
- Sodom is treated in the NT as the example of an ungodly city because its people engaged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh (Matt. 10:15; 11:23-24; 2 Peter 2:6; Jude 1:6-7)

<sup>6</sup> **and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter;** 2 Peter 2:6 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> **And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, <sup>7</sup> 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.** Jude 1:6-7 (NASB)

- The Law prohibited homosexual relations (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13)

<sup>22</sup> **~'You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.** Leviticus 18:22 (NASB)

<sup>13</sup> **~'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; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.** Leviticus 20:13 (NASB)

- Homosexuals are included in the list of the unrighteous (1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:8-10)

<sup>9</sup> **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, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.** 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> **But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, <sup>9</sup> 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 <sup>10</sup> and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,** 1 Timothy 1:8-10 (NASB)

- Homosexual behavior is described as a degrading passion (Romans 1:26-27)

<sup>26</sup> **For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, <sup>27</sup> 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.** Romans 1:26-27 (NASB)

III. Homosexual orientation or attraction to the same gender is not mentioned in the Bible and should not be placed in the category of sin, but rather in the category of temptation.

- Temptation is not sin.
- The attraction may be more emotional in nature than sexual.
- Our decisions define us, not our desires.
  
- With all temptation there is a way to escape sin (i.e. homosexual behavior is still a choice)- 1 Corinthians 10:13

<sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)

IV. Those who decide not to trust in Jesus are often identified in Scripture by their prevailing sin whereas those who trust in Jesus are identified as “saints” and “in Christ”

- Lists of the unrighteous identify the unrighteous by their prevailing sin (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:5; Revelation 21:8)

<sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>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. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup>For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Ephesians 5:5 (NASB)

<sup>8</sup>"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." Revelation 21:8 (NASB)

- The identity of believers is that they are saints (1 Corinthians 6:11; 1:1-2)

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called *as* an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, <sup>2</sup>To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours: 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 (NASB)

- Therefore no believer in Jesus is a homosexual in their identity. They are a saint who may struggle with homosexual temptation or sin!

V. Is homosexual orientation genetically determined (i.e. Is a person born gay)? Almost certainly not for the following reasons.

- Something that is genetically determined (such as skin or eye color) can not be changed and yet sufficient evidence shows that some people have changed from a homosexual orientation to a heterosexual orientation.
- To be born gay would imply that God designed people to be tempted by homosexual sin when in fact God tempts no one with sin (James 1:13)

<sup>13</sup> **Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.** James 1:13 (NASB)

- If homosexual orientation is genetically determined then natural selection should have remove those genes from the gene pool.
- There has been no reproducible, valid scientific data to suggest that homosexual orientation is genetically determined.
- In truth, homosexual orientation is more likely the combination of a number of contributing factors since there is no factor that is 100% predictive of homosexual orientation.
- The high percentage of male homosexuals with damaged relationships with their fathers suggests that faulty attachment with the same gender parent is a primary factor.

VI. Is homosexual orientation a conscious choice? Usually it is not.

- This is the testimony of many who have a homosexual orientation.
- Homosexual orientation may develop as early as 18 months to three years of age, well before the individual has any memory of or choice in the orientation.

VII. Laying the groundwork for next week.

- Realize that all who struggle with homosexuality have experienced deep hurt and rejection so that we must employ grace and kindness with any truth we speak.
- We are not kind if we ignore or omit God's truth. Neither are we truthful if we don't recognize that we all experience the same struggle with sin and temptation, even if our flavor of sin is different. Humility is called for when we try to help someone else.
- God's word promises that we do not have to be enslaved to sin. It does not promise that we will not be tempted.