

## Sexual Purity: Same Sex Attraction

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### I. Introduction

Does God condemn same sex marriage? In order to answer this one must look at what God says about homosexuality. Are people born this way? What influences someone in this direction? What does the Old Testament say? Does the New Testament differ? What is the fundamental problem God has with same sex marriage? And how should we treat those who identify themselves as homosexual?

### II. What Causes Same Sex Attraction?

**What are the influences?** Some who've worked with those struggling with same sex attraction have noticed the following: with males there's a missing connection with their maleness due to having no father, an absentee father, or a bad father role model. With females there's a lack of an emotional connection with their mother, so they become emotionally dependent on other females. With both there is often a history of sexual abuse. However, none of this or other various factors are determinative. Simply because you have one or all of these common threads in your history does not mean that you will struggle with same sex attraction.

**Is homosexuality congenital?** Are people born this way? Some think that there's a genetic link to homosexuality. Dr. Robert Gagnon, who wrote *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*, in his 3-part DVD series titled *Love, the Bible, and Homosexual Practice* discusses the work done by secular scientists which does not only reveal a missing genetic link but in fact argues against one (If you want to hear both sides of the debate read *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views* by Via and Gagnon).

### III. Does God Condemn Same Sex Attraction?

**What does the Old Testament say?** It is clear from passages like Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 that God condemns homosexuality. In fact God is against blurring the lines between the genders in any way, Deuteronomy 22:5.

**What does the New Testament say?** Romans 1:24–27 seems to clearly condemn homosexuality. But not everyone interprets Romans 1 this way. Some argue that Paul is not condemning all homosexuality, only certain types of homosexuality because: (1) writers of Scripture only knew of certain coercive or immoral homosexual relationships (sex with adolescents, boy prostitutes, or slaves) and (2) the ancient world didn't know that homosexuality might be congenital. Had they known these things or about committed homosexual relationships, writers of Scripture would have had a different opinion.

However, Dr. Gagnon quotes both ancient and modern secular writers who reveal that the ancient world was well aware of committed homosexual relationships and that homosexuality might be congenital. He also quotes current secular writers, one a self-identified lesbian, who clearly acknowledge and understand that Paul is condemning *all* homosexual relationships.

Additionally, Scripture is not oblivious to a possible genetic link to homosexuality. However, it's not that we're born homosexual; it's that we're born to sin. Romans 1:24 and 26–27 clearly show that the individuals practicing homosexuality have these passions within them. And Romans 7:13–24 reveals that at the core of our being is a desire not just to commit homosexuality, but to sin period. Thus, our sinful nature takes every opportunity (from our childhood to our daily circumstances) to sin.

**What is the fundamental problem with same sex attraction?** Those who commit homosexuality aren't just equipped with these burning desires, they also know that these desires are wrong, Romans 1:21, 25, 27; 2:15, even if they don't have the Scriptures to guide them. All of creation testifies against homosexual behavior. There is a harmony to everything and everything has its counterpart: the skies are incomplete without birds, the earth without animals, and the sea without fish. There is also a marriage between similar opposites: the earth and sea work in harmony. The moon and Sun (both heavenly bodies) work in harmony to provide light for the earth. Marriage culminates in the ultimate male/female pairing: Christ, the Bridegroom (male), and the Church, the Bride (female).

When it comes to gender, every animal has its counterpart, its similar opposite that completes them. Then there is man. When God initially made him, he was incomplete, Genesis 2:18. Thus, God created the perfect counterpart. When He made her, He didn't make her out of the ground like Adam, but out of Adam because she was to be exactly like him yet different. She would be that which would complete and fill what was lacking. But she would not be the same, another man; she would be the same yet different, a *woman*.

Purposely choosing against this fundamental truth (concerning gender, which is revealed in all of creation) has its consequence. You will become an utter fool destined for severe discipline, Romans 1:21–27.

**Matthew 19:1–9**, though this does not deal with homosexuality directly, it does so indirectly. When asked about divorce, Jesus refers to God’s clearly delineated standard regarding sexual relations: one man and one woman united together sexually in marriage. Prior to this, Moses gave the men of Israel (because of the hardness of their hearts) permission to have multiple sex partners through divorce and remarriage. But Jesus says, “from the beginning it was not so.” God’s design is one male with one female, not multiple males or females. Thus, the pairing is to be male/female not male/male or female/female.

**What’s fundamentally wrong with same sex marriage?** The logic behind a *heterosexual* sexual union is that two complimentary similar yet different halves unite into one sexual whole. A homosexual union does not make a sexual whole, but two halves that are the same. Further, God’s design for genders sees a fundamental difference between males and females. Those who engage in homosexuality unwittingly agree with God. How so? The fact that males will only go with males and females with females reveals that homosexuals clearly understand the fundamental difference between the sexes, otherwise they would not care who they paired with, i.e., they would be bisexuals not homosexuals. Their behavior also mimics God’s design in sexuality, i.e., in male/male homosexuality one of the males plays the *female* role and in female/female homosexuality one of the females plays the *male* role (often in speech, behavior, and dress).

#### IV. Hate the Sin **Because** You Love the Sinner

Too often “Hate the sin, but love the sinner” is abused in both directions: we either become judge and jury and say too much (harshly) or we condone the sin by saying nothing. In order to “hate the sin, but love the sinner,” we must love the sinner the way God does. In Matthew 18:15–17, God teaches us how to discipline a sinning brother. In the end if they do not accept rebuke and repent, we’re to kick them out of the church. But the purpose of this is not to banish them forever; it’s meant to restore them to the church, 1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Corinthians 2:6–11. Thus, our goal is to draw those enslaved to homosexuality to Christ. We’re to treat sinners the way our Lord did. Thus, we neither become judge and jury nor do we ignore their sin, John 8:1–11. Also, our hatred towards sin should not be selective. In Proverbs 6:16–19 there are seven sins God hates. When was the last time Christians marched against lying? Finally, we should remember why God hates sin. He hates it because of what it does to us; it destroys us. So when we see someone enslaved by homosexuality, our love for them should move us towards them with compassion in order to deliver them from a sin that is destroying their lives.

#### V. Conclusion

There may be things that influence someone towards homosexuality, but these things are not determinative. In the end the problem with homosexuality is the fundamental undoing of the natural ordering of the genders evidenced in all of creation: the male/female complimentary same-yet-different pairing. As Christians our goal is to draw those enslaved by homosexuality towards Christ. But it must be done with love and grace not hatred.