

Homosexuality

Homosexuality is romantic or sexual attraction or behavior between members of the same gender. Sexual sin includes everything from desire to lust to intercourse.

The Bible clearly teaches that homosexuality is not God's design for us.

Is homosexual worse than other sins?

NOT AT ALL!

Sin is disobedience to God, and every sin separates us from Him. It is not God's design that we would be selfish, gossip, or live a hypocritical life. Some sins are more obvious than others (from a human perspective), but God sees everything. Every act of disobedience separates us from God.

*Everyone--absolutely everyone--struggles with sin.
All of us--absolutely all of us--need God's free gift of grace.*

In God's eyes, all sin is equal. It is a tragedy when some believers are unfairly judgmental of others due to a single kind of sin. When this happens, we drive people away from God when we should be showing grace.

TEMPTATION is not sin.

Sexual temptation -- homosexual or heterosexual -- is not sin. When we give in to sexual temptation, then we sin. Sexual sin isn't just intercourse; it's everything that leads up to it. Jesus taught that lust (mental fantasy) is sin even though it "only" happens in the mind (for example, indulging in pornography).

The Bible teaches that Jesus was tempted, but did not sin. He defeated the power of sin and gives us the strength to resist all temptations. Jesus sympathizes with our struggle, and gives us comfort when we are tempted.

Does God Love Homosexuals?

ABSOLUTELY. GOD LOVES EVERYONE. HE LOVES US AND HE WILL NEVER STOP LOVING US! Two of the greatest leaders in God's kingdom, Moses and Paul, were murderers. But God loved them, and they did many great things in His name. God's love is bigger than any of our sins. God has the power to free anyone from the grip of sin, and we have access to that power through the Holy Spirit. We must submit to His power on a daily basis to find the healing and freedom that we need.

Can I pursue a homosexual lifestyle and still be honoring God?

The Bible clearly teaches that homosexuality is not God's design for our lives (see Romans 1:26-27 for reference). Indulging in a homosexual lifestyle is considered disobedience to God. Indulging a prideful, arrogant lifestyle is disobedient to God, and so is an impure heart and engaging in heterosexual activity before marriage. *Pursuing any kind of sinful lifestyle dishonors God.*

If I struggle with homosexuality can I still be saved?

YES! Salvation is the acceptance of God's free gift of grace. We become children of God through faith in Jesus, that he died for our sins and rose from the dead. He defeated sin and death because we could never, ever, defeat sin and death on our own. We are saved by faith, the kind of faith that translates into real action. Here's a silly example: you don't really believe a chair will hold you unless you sit in it.

The Bible's teachings are clear: in Christ, we are made new. We become a NEW CREATION and the old is gone. (2 Corinthians 5:13) *All believers struggle with sin, and in Jesus, we have the power to resist temptation. No one is perfect.*

We all make mistakes. You may still fall into the temptation, but don't give up! Don't let that discourage you from growing in your relationship with Christ.

I'm struggling...and want help

If you are struggling with this issue, don't struggle alone. We love you and want to help in any way we can! Tell an HSM leader or another trusted adult.

Going Deeper

Read and reflect on: Genesis 19:4-11; Judges 19, 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:10; Rom. 1:26-27.

Legit reading: *Welcoming but not Affirming* by Stanley Grenz or *Gay Girl, Good God* by Jackie Hill Perry