

*Clarity and Compassion: God's Word, Same Sex Marriage, and People You Love, 1*  
**The Genetics Argument: What If I Was Born This Way?**

Sunday Evening Bible Study  
September 27, 2015

**Review**

1. The trendy and unprecedented invention of gay marriage.
  - 1.1 Marriage is a relationship uniting a man and a woman.” (*World Book Encyclopedia*, 1968).
  - 2.2 “Marriage, also called matrimony or wedlock, is a socially or ritually recognized union or legal contract between spouses...” (*Wikipedia*, September 24, 2015).
  - 1.3 “Well Soledad, I don’t necessarily focus on that. I only talk about that in interviews...I think part of my, if you want to call it success, I’ve stayed in my lane and my lane is lifting people’s spirits and there are issues that good, Bible-believing people see on both sides of the fence” (Joel Osteen when asked by Soledad O’Brien on CNN if homosexuality is a sin, 2012).
3. Objection #1: The Emotional Argument: “What if someone I love is gay?”  
Our Response: It’s understandable that the more people you know and love who identify as gay, the more likely you are to approve of gay marriage. But when we change our opinions based on your warm affections and feelings rather than facts, we are likely committing the fallacy of “appeal to emotion,” in which our emotions are manipulated by someone who wants to win an argument. Yet, God’s Word warns us that our emotions cannot be trusted and our capacity for rationalization is unlimited (Pr. 14:12; 21:2; Judges 17:6; Jer. 17:9).

**Objection #2: The Genetics Argument: What if I was born this way?**

1. The Popular/Religious Form of the Genetics Argument from Lady Gaga (2011)  
*It doesn't matter if you love him or capital H-I-M, Just put your paws up, 'Cause you were born this way, baby. My mama told me when I was young, We are all born superstars... There's nothin' wrong with lovin' who you are, She said, 'cause He made you perfect, babe. So hold your head up, girl and you'll go far. Listen to me when I say, I'm beautiful in my way, 'Cause God makes no mistakes. I'm on the right track, baby, I was born this way. Don't hide yourself in regret, Just love yourself and you're set'. Whether you're broke or evergreen. You're black, white, beige, chola descent, You're Lebanese, you're orient. Whether life's disabilities left you outcast, bullied or teased. Rejoice and love yourself today, 'Cause baby, you were born this way. No matter gay, straight or bi, Lesbian, transgendered life, I'm on the right track, baby, I was born to survive.*
3. The Scientific Form of the Genetics Argument
  - 3.1 The Latest Study: “Background Findings from family and twin studies support a genetic contribution to the development of sexual orientation in men. However, previous studies have yielded conflicting evidence for linkage to chromosome Xq28.” Abstract, *Psychological Medicine*, May 2015).
  - 3.2 Response to this study: “Due to the limitations of this approach, the new work also fails to provide what behavioral geneticists really crave: specific genes that might underlie homosexuality...Studies comparing identical and fraternal twins suggest there is some heritable component to homosexuality, but no one believes that a single gene or genes can make a person gay. Any genetic predispositions probably interact with environmental factors that influence development of a sexual orientation” (Kelly Servick, *Science Magazine*, Nov. 11, 2014)
  - 3.3 Response to this study: Finding that conclusive link, however, seems unlikely given the track record of these studies. At every turn, their veracity has been cast into doubt by the scientific community... Most geneticists, too, who comment on the possible connections between chromosomes and sexual orientation are quick to assert that social and environmental factors play a large role in the development of any sexual orientation. And, of course, relatively little media attention has been paid to studies that conclude that there is no X-linked gene at the root of male homosexuality (Samantha Allen, *Daily Beast*, Nov. 11, 2014).
4. Birth Defects and Pathogenics: Separate and Unique Issues (Combined, these constitute less than 0.5% of the population).

- 4.1 Intersexed: A person who is born with sexual anatomy and sexual organs that do not fit the typical definition of male or female, sharing characteristics of both.
  - 4.2 Autogynephilia: Attracted to women in the form of oneself; a man who is a biological male identifies as a woman, usually dressing in provocative female clothing, claiming to be a woman in a man's body, finding sexual stimulation as such.
  - 4.3 Dysphoria: A person identifies as someone of the opposite sex based on a feeling not biological fact. There is not anatomical or biological ambiguity as to gender.
  - 4.4 A compassionate response: Do what we would do for any birth defect or disease; treat it medically, spiritually, and psychologically in order to help them live in accordance with the gender assigned to them by the Creator. Do not make rare exceptions the rule.
5. Other Factors to Consider: Studies on Teenagers
- 5.1 Straight High School males who got a woman pregnant: 2.4%
  - 5.2 Gay High School males who got a woman pregnant: 9.9%
  - 5.3 Straight High School females who had been pregnant: 1.5%
  - 5.4 Lesbian High School females who had been pregnant: 6.6%
  - 5.5 LGBT teens have higher levels of substance abuse before having sex.
  - 5.6 LGBT teens are more likely than heterosexual peers to have first sexual experience before 14.
  - 5.7 Gay and bisexual teen males have disproportionately high rates of all STDs.<sup>1</sup>
  - 5.8 Fact: Teenagers who experience same sex attraction are much more sexually active.
  - 5.9 Inference: Sexual promiscuity and experimentation are often signs of loneliness, unmet needs for intimacy and connection, unresolved emotional problems, need for attention, childhood sexual abuse, and a search for meaning and significance.
6. God's Word: The Doctrine of Total Depravity (a.k.a., Radical Corruption)
- 6.1 Only Adam and Eve were made "perfect" (Gen. 1:31).
  - 6.2 Adam perfectly represented all mankind and his guilt was imputed to all of us. So, we are all born spiritually dead, totally depraved, prone to sin, and unable to choose Christ (Ro. 5:12).
  - 6.3 This doctrine does not teach that we are as wicked as we can possibly be, but that there is no area of our body our soul untouched by sin and its consequences (Ro. 3:9-18).
  - 6.4 Even the greatest sinner has some remnant of the image of God in him or her (Gen. 1:27)
  - 6.5 No one is an exception to this condition (Ro. 3:23).
  - 6.6 We are not sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners; born with a sin nature.
  - 6.7 The wages of sin is death (Ro. 6:23). Spiritual death separates God from man. Eternal death separates man from God forever. Physical death separates body from soul.
  - 6.8 The consequences of sin bring corruption to all creation, including our genes (Ro. 8:19-29).
  - 6.9 The gift of God is regeneration; being made alive by him and enabled to choose him and be freed from the penalty of sin (Eph. 2:1-5).
  - 6.10 But even Christians struggle with fallen bodies until death or Christ's return (Ro. 6:5; 7:15-21).
6. Q: Are people gay because of nature (genetics) or nurture (environment)?
- A: Yes. Even if we concede a genetic component, these dispositions in the past have been restrained by cultural standards informed by a biblical worldview. As these restraints are removed by celebrities, politicians, and parents, expect more sexual confusion among young people.
- We all have birth defects that make our life more difficult and will eventually kill us. Our birth defects also have a spiritual component. Because we are fallen, we are all predisposed to sin against God. But genetic tendency is no excuse for sinful behavior. Even if sexual orientation is not a choice, sexual activity certainly is.
- We all expect our neighbors to routinely say "no" to their internal desires: angry outbursts, alcoholism, adultery, or other sexual "orientations" (toward children, multiple partners, or animals).

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/gay-teens-have-higher-rates-of-pregnancy-than-straight-teens>