

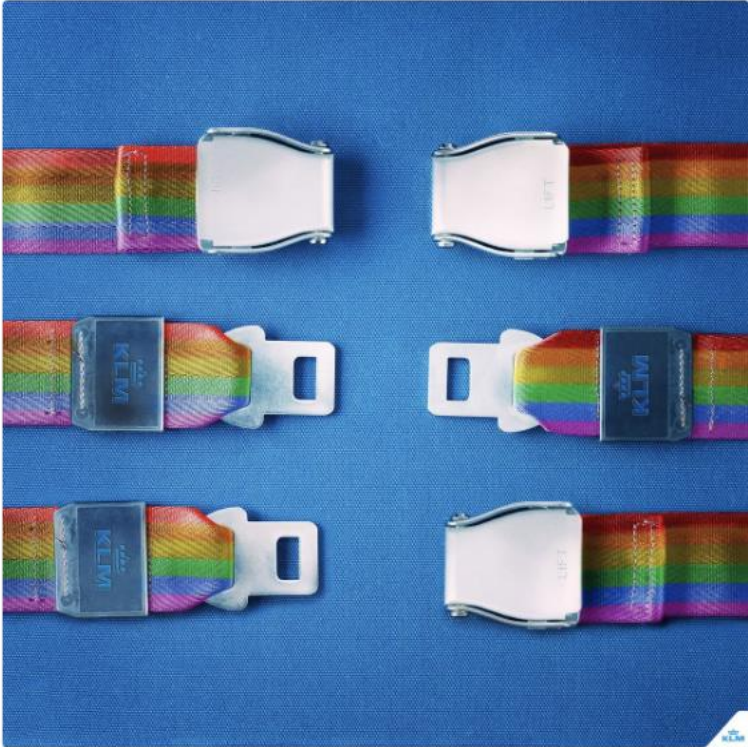


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Biblical Ethics

Sexual Ethics pt 2: Homosexuality

February 18, 2024
Adult Sunday School
Lewis Lake Covenant Church

Homosexuality

I. Historical considerations

- A. "Homosexuality is a very ancient phenomenon, being evidenced in prehistoric art, as well as in the pictographs and hieroglyphs of ancient cultures."
- B. "The ancient Hebrews, Egyptians, and Assyrians had laws against homosexual practices."
- C. "From the 6th century B.C. and onward, homosexuality is increasingly referred to in the art and literature of Greece: in the poetry of Sappho and Anacreon, the prose of Plato, and the plays of Aeschylus. It would be a mistake, however, to conclude that ancient Greek culture ever accepted homosexuality as a societal norm."
- D. "There is no evidence that the Vikings, Visigoths, Celts, or Vandals approved of homosexuality; some of these pagan cultures in fact punished it severely. Visigoth law condemned the practicing homosexual to be burned at the stake."
- E. "Hostility toward homosexuality in the West did not originate with the Christian church."
- F. As Europe urbanized from 1000-1500AD, "evidence of homosexual activity increased."
 - * Homosexuality is generally (not exclusively) an urban phenomenon.

II. Cultural considerations:

- A. Alfred Kinsey
 - 1. *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* (1948);
Sexual Behavior in the Adult Human Female (1953 - the year he appeared on the cover of *Time*)
 - 2. Normalized homosexuality by developing a spectrum of homo/heterosexuality

3. Popularized “Born this way” thought.
 - a. Children are non-sexually attracted - how do they know?
 - b. Chapter 5 of his first book contains tables on Kinsey’s ‘research’ ‘studying’ stimulation/orgasm in children as young as 5mo
 - c. Research was essentially child molestation performed by child molester(s).
 - d. If true, why should we have age of consent laws?
 - e. Sex-ed can never come too early!

B. *After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear & Hatred of Gays in the 90’s* (Kirk and Madsen, 1989) (the following material and quotations taken from *We Cannot Be Silent* by R. Albert Mohler, Jr.)

“As cynical as it may seem, AIDS gives us a chance, however brief, to establish ourselves as a victimized minority legitimately deserving of America’s special protection and care.” (Kirk & Madsen)

Strategy:

1. *Talk* about homosexuality. But in a certain way. “The public should not be shocked and repelled by premature exposure to homo*sexual* behavior itself. Instead, the imagery of sex per se should be downplayed, and the issue of gay rights reduced, as far as possible, to an abstract social question.”
2. Find allies in the church: “The only way specifically religious arguments could be countered in the public square was to have persons who appeared as

religious ‘experts’ answering the arguments. These defeater arguments required, in their words, ‘publicizing support by moderate churches and raising serious theological objections to conservative biblical teachings.’”

3. “Portray gays as victims, not as aggressive challengers.”

“For all practical purposes, gays should be considered to have been *born gay* – even though sexual orientation... seems to be the product of a complex interaction between innate dispositions and environmental factors during childhood and early adolescence.”

4. Make gays look good and ‘victimizers’ look bad. “For example, for several seconds an unctuous, beady-eyed Sothern preacher is shown pounding the pulpit in rage against ‘those perverted, abominable creatures.’ While his tirade continues over the soundtrack, the picture switches to heart-rending photos of badly beaten persons, or of gays who look decent, harmless, and likable; and then we cut back to the poisonous face of the preacher. The contrast speaks for itself. The effect is devastating.”

C. *Victory: The Triumphant Gay Revolution*, Linda Hirshman (2013)

She believed ‘public acceptance of homosexuality had to overcome the “four horsemen” of moral judgment,’ that is, the perception that homosexuals are crazy, sinful, criminal, and subversive.

1. *Crazy*

“In 1973 activists persuaded the board of trustees of the APA to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.”

“Activists within the APA... used the tactic known as the ‘zap’ to shut down any meeting, conference, or assembly they deemed hostile to their cause.”

“The social acceptance of homosexuality could not have happened if psychiatrists and psychologists... were committed to labeling homosexuality a disease... ‘Homophobia’ is now the new mental illness and moral deficiency.”

2. *Sinful*

“The normalization of same-sex relationships and behaviors could not have happened without a significant group of liberal Bible scholars, theologians, and religious leaders who were willing to declare that the church’s position on the sinfulness of homosexuality – a position that had existed for millennia – was in error and needed a major overhaul.”

“Devoid of a Christian worldview and underfed by an absence of clear biblical teaching and preaching, millions of American evangelicals moved to their own process of moral transformation on the question of homosexuality.”

“Without the cooperation of at least some leaders and churches within organized Christianity, it is hard to say that the homosexual movement could have proved so successful during the last several decades.”

3. *Criminal*

“In 1986, the Supreme Court ruled that the state of Georgia was not violating the Constitution by criminalizing sodomy. Just ten years later, the court’s ruling in *Romer v. Evans* decided that no state law targeting those with a same-sex sexual orientation could be constitutional.”

2013 – *Windsor v. United States* struck down the Defense of Marriage Act (1996) which said ‘the federal government would recognize marriage only as the union of a man and a woman, and... no state would be forced... to legally recognize a same-sex marriage performed in any other state.’”

2015 – *Obergefell* made same-sex marriage the law of the land.

4. *Subversive*

“The nation’s entertainment culture has provided Kirk and Madsen’s strategy the space it needed to thrive. A concerted effort to present a constant parade of happy, nonthreatening homosexuals in popular culture has undercut the notion that homosexuality is subversive to a healthy society. Ironically, some radical activists feel marginalized... [noting] that middle-class, white, monogamous gay men and women represent almost all of mainstream media’s same-sex characters.”

“*USA Today*, just days after the Supreme Court handed down the 2013 legal decisions, touted Hollywood as ‘the best man of gay marriage... The

nation's pop culture machine has for decades now chipped away at a once taboo topic so as to render it utterly familiar.”

Kirk and Madsen, 1984: “The average American household watches over seven hours of television daily. Those hours open up a gateway into the private world of straights [ie. heterosexuals] through which a Trojan horse might be passed. As far as desensitization is concerned, the medium is the message of normalcy... Hollywood has provided our best covert weapon in the battle to desensitize the mainstream. Bit by bit over the past ten years, gay characters and gay themes have been introduced into TV programs and films. On the whole the movement has been encouraging.”

III. Biological Considerations:

A. *Telos*: What exists, exists for some kind of purpose.

Evolutionary and Creational Scientists disagree on how things came to exist, but they both acknowledge that what exists, exists because it serves some kind of meaningful purpose.

1. According to evolutionary theory, homosexuality must be an aberrant weakness since it doesn't facilitate reproduction and actively leads to extinction.
2. No 'gay gene' or any other biological basis for homosexual orientation has yet been discovered.

B. Homosexual behavior is unhealthy

1. “...men who have sex with men accounted for 83% of primary and secondary syphilis cases”
2. “... men who have sex with men are 17 times more likely to get anal cancer than heterosexual men.”
3. “Compared to other men... men who have sex with men are additionally affected by:
 - Higher rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs);
 - Tobacco and drug use;
 - Depression.

There are many reasons... Some of them are:

- Prevalence of HIV among sexual partners of ...men who have sex with men is 40 times that of sexual partners of heterosexual men;
 - Receptive anal sex is 18 times more risky for HIV acquisition than receptive vaginal sex;
 - ... men who have sex with men on average have a greater number of lifetime sexual partners.”
<https://www.cdc.gov/msmhealth/STD.htm>
4. Incontinence
 5. Lifespan: “The only epidemiological study to date on the life span of gay men concluded that gay and bisexual men lose up to 20 years of life expectancy.”
<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/marriage-and-family/sexuality/the-health-risks-of-gay-sex.html>

IV. Orientation

- A. Claim: Every person is born with a certain sexual orientation which determines his/her preferred sexual partner.

1. One's orientation can only be truly known by him/herself.
2. Identity vs. Activity: who I *am* vs. what I *do*
3. Now disputed: One's orientation is hard-wired and cannot be altered by any means.

B. Moral Implications:

1. Homosexuals are acting acc. to their nature, which is a moral good.
2. All attempts to change a person's orientation (ie. 'conversion therapy' or 'pray the gay away') are immoral: you'd never try to convert a black person into an Asian!

C. Significant question: How many kinds of people are there?

1. Legitimate vs. illegitimate categories of human beings.
 - a. Illegitimate: Multiple races (usually divided by skin color), ie. substantive, meaningful biological differences creating a hierarchy of more/less valuable people - Nazis/Jews, Greeks/Barbarians, Romans/Scythians, KKK/Africans
 - b. Legitimate: Two sexes - male/female
2. 'Sexual orientation' is an illegitimate category that creates a new matrix of people:
 - male/female - 2 kinds of people, defined by sex.
 - homo/hetero male/female - 4 kinds of people, defined by sex/orientation.
 - Gender id/sexual id/biological id - 16 kinds of people?
 - LGBTQ+ - as many kinds as there are people

D. Language war:

1. Identification:

- a. Homosexual: a *kind* of person
- b. Homosexuality: an activity a person engages in.

2. Opposition

Homophobia: opposition to homosexuality is rooted in fear. This fear might be:

- a. Irrational: You're afraid of something harmless.
- b. Ignorant: You're afraid of what you don't understand.
- c. Bigoted: You're afraid of people who are different than you

V. Consequences of orientation thinking

- A. Legitimizes the delusion of a separate class of human.
- B. Legitimizes an improper perception of self.
- C. A man whose personality doesn't fit typical masculine stereotypes might become convinced he is a homosexual.
- D. Loss of meaningful distinction between person/deed. One must then accept/deny both. Relationally devastating.
- E. Offers no hope of restoration or renewal

VI. Biblical Considerations

- A. Homosexuality in the Biblical Story: Does homosexuality exist before or arise after Genesis 3?
 - 1. If before, it's good!
 - 2. If after, it's a product of the fall.

- B. Homosexuality is always viewed negatively (Gen 19:1-11; Lev 18:22, 20:13; Judges 19:22-23; Rom 1:27; 1 Cor 6:9-

10; 1 Tim 1:9-10).

- C. Jesus affirmed the goodness (and normalcy) of male/female relations (Matt 19:4)

- D. Homosexuality is a violation and denial of human nature (Rom 1:26-27).
It is fundamentally a rebellion against God's creative design for male and female both in terms of sexuality and covenant companionship.

"God, the partner you made for me isn't good."

- E. Like all sin, homosexuality is attended not only by Divine judgment but natural consequences.

- F. Homosexuality is a sin for which Jesus died and His blood can cleanse those who are defiled by it (1 Cor 6:9-11)

...since they did not
see fit to
acknowledge God,
God gave them up
to a debased mind
to do what ought
not to be done.

Romans 1:28

