



Does the bible really say?

Part 8: "Homosexuality/lesbianism is a sin!"

Romans 1:26-27; *"Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way, men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion."*

1. It's outside of my control?

- None of us can **determine** our skin, eye, or hair color. None of us can **decide** our height, and we all know that our weight is **variable**, & at least sometimes seems out of our control.
- We are just born with these traits already hard-wired within our DNA, & much depends on **genetics** & **inherited** traits.
- Why then, isn't our sexuality also determined by the same factors?
- Aren't homosexual/lesbian people just born that way?
- After all, even heterosexual people also have **preferences**. We might be attracted to a person with a certain hair, skin, or eye color, & we might find a certain build more attractive than others.
- Furthermore, if God created all people, then did God create them gay?
- Turn to **Genesis 2:20b-25**. God created **sex**, **sexuality**, & **marriage**.
- Hear this clearly; **anything outside of God's design is sin!**
- Let's make the distinction between traits & **actions**, or DNA & **desires**.
- **Susceptibility** doesn't **dismiss** sin. **Proclivity** is not **license**.

2. It's just an Old Testament bias?

- Genesis 2 says one man, one woman. **Lev. 18:22** says such sin is an **abomination**. **Lev. 20:13** gives the **death** penalty for such sin. But those are Old Covenant texts, aren't we now under **grace**?

- Were these just misunderstandings of **homophobic** people long ago?
- Surely, these things aren't forbidden in the New Testament & under the New Covenant? That would be **narrow-minded** & **bigoted**!
- Turn to **Matthew 19:4-5**. Jesus upheld the **design** & **sanctity** of marriage. Jesus **authenticated** Gen. 1 & 2 as God's plan for humans.
- **Rom. 1:26-27, 1 Cor. 6:9, 1 Tim. 1:10, Jude vs. 7** all **uphold** the **same** standards portrayed in the O.T.
- **God's standards of holiness did not change when Jesus came!**
- God doesn't change; He is **immutable** (Heb. 13:8).
- He won't declare something sinful today & change His mind tomorrow!
- The N.T. leaves no doubt by its language, 'shameful lust, shameful act', 'unnatural relations', 'wrongdoing', 'sexual immorality', & 'perversion'.
- These are not **Paul's bigoted** rantings, but the eternal truth of God.

3. I can be **gay** & a **Christian**?

- There are churches & denominations that not only openly **affirm** gay members & marriages but are **ordaining** clergy who are gay.
- Turn to **1 Cor. 6:9-10**.
- Homosexuality is in a **list** of sins. Some think it's the **worst** of all sins.
- It certainly denies God's **design** & **order**. Romans says it's part of God's **wrath** against sin & sinners. It certainly carries **physiological** consequences. However, all sin is sin; it's my **way** over God's **way**.
- **Is homosexuality a forgivable sin?** Turn to **1 Cor. 6:11**. The answer is **100% yes**!
- Yet, there is a clear **repentance** (turning) from that **lifestyle**.
- The bible doesn't say Christians can't struggle (be tempted) in this area.
- **What distinguishes a Christian's life from a non-Christian's life when it comes to sin?**
 - a. Non-believer;** sin is a non-**existent** term. Sin is just what we do. Whatever we want, we just do it. Sin is an **antiquated** term. Sin **rules** & **reigns** in the life of those who are not redeemed.
 - b. Believer;** sin is still present, but we are no longer **enslaved**. We don't have to sin! It doesn't **define** us. Our lives are **growing** in holiness (**sanctification**) as we overcome the desires of the flesh. Our lives are no longer our own; we belong to Christ; we want His way over our way.
- So, a person who claims to be a Christian but also claims that God made them that way, or that God is okay with what He calls sin, being a defining action in their lives, is clearly **deceived** & not **redeemed**.

4. Is same sex attraction a sin?

- Turn to **Matthew 5:27-28**. Here, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus equates lust with adultery. Not only is it a sin to do a lustful action, but it's a sin to desire that same action.
- Now, let's remember that God/the bible doesn't declare temptation itself a sin. Jesus was tempted & yet without sin.
- **Temptation** often leads to sin, but it is not a sin itself.
- Heterosexual lust & adultery are clearly sins. However, heterosexual attraction (not lust) is not a sin. It is normal for males & females to be attracted to one another. It becomes sinful when it turns to lust.
- Homosexual/lesbian lust & adultery are also clearly sins.
- What makes same sex attraction sinful is that even the attraction itself is something that God forbids as against His natural, created order.
- The desire for anything God has forbidden is by definition sin.
- Sin causes warped & twisted versions of God given desires such as sex & sexuality. These are tied only to our sin nature.
- Same sex attraction is the disordered version of a God given desire.
- Mankind likes to question how long you can entertain temptation before it turns into a lustful thought. Don't look for the line in the sand.

5. If God is love, why can't I love who I want?

- If God is love, how could He condemn my love?
- ***First, let's answer the question: what love?***
- Turn to **1 John 4:8**. The word translated love is the Greek word agape. This is the selfless, God-like love.
- It's the love God has for mankind that's noted in **John 3:16**.
- It is sacrificial love that Jesus modeled in His earthly life.
- The kind of love those with same sex attraction are discussing is eros in Greek. This is romantic or erotic love.
- **It's a lie to equate sex & sexuality with love. Let me explain.**
- The bible makes it clear that not all will marry & not all people will have sex (Matt 19:12 & 1 Cor. 7:7) & this doesn't make a person a second-rate person or leave them unfulfilled in this life.
- Not all people will find (eros) love in this life. They can still have the love of God (agape), they can still experience brotherly/friendship love (philia), & they still have familial love (storge) with their parents/siblings. Paul argues the benefits of singleness in 1 Cor. 7.
- The most loving thing God can do is to save you from the things He determines are harmful for you. The most loving thing we do is obey.



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- After all, even heterosexual people also have _____. We might be attracted to a person with a certain hair, skin, or eye color, & we might find a certain build more attractive than others.
- Furthermore, if God created all people, then did God create them gay?
- Turn to **Genesis 2:20b-25**. God created _____, _____, & _____.
- Hear this clearly; _____ **outside of God's _____ is sin!**
- Let's make the distinction between traits & _____, or DNA & _____.
- _____ doesn't _____ sin. _____ is not _____.

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 - b. **Believer**; sin is still present, but we are no longer _____. We don't have to sin! It doesn't _____ us. Our lives are _____ in holiness (_____) as we overcome the desires of the flesh. Our lives are no longer our own; we belong to Christ; we want His way over our way.
- So, a person who claims to be a Christian but also claims that God made them that way, or that God is okay with what He calls sin, being a defining action in their lives, is clearly _____ & not _____.

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- **It's a _____ to _____ sex & sexuality with love. Let me explain.**
- The bible makes it clear that not all will _____ & not all people will have _____ (Matt 19:12 & 1 Cor. 7:7) & this doesn't make a person a _____-rate person or leave them _____ in this life.
- Not all people will find (_____) love in this life. They can still have the love of God (_____), they can still experience brotherly/friendship love (_____), & they still have familial love (_____) with their parents/siblings. Paul argues the _____ of singleness in 1 Cor. 7.
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