

Counterfeit Marriage | 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 | Dr. Steven Ingino
*The following is an edited transcript of Sunday's sermon provided by
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Inception

You may remember the movie *Inception*, directed by Christopher Nolan, and starring Leonardo DiCaprio. It's a very intense film. You see, in the movie, the character played by DiCaprio, a man named Cobb, specializes in tapping into people's dreams in order to extract information out of them.

So, for instance, in the beginning of the story, Cobb tries to obtain corporate secrets from a successful businessman's dreams. But this businessman uncovers the scheme and then (because he's impressed with Cobb's skills) asks Cobb to do something that has never been done before. Instead of tapping into people's dreams to get information, this businessman wants to hire Cobb to implant information in the mind of his corporate rival.

Hence the title *Inception*, from the word "incept," which means to take in or ingest. It also means the starting point of an idea. For the rest of the movie, the plot unfolds as Cobb's team invades one man's dream, and try to penetrate 4 levels deep of his sub-conscious, to plant a lie in his mind. They have to go this deep so that this man will accept the lie, not reject it, and think that it was his idea to begin with.

The Problem

Well, I submit to you that the plot of *Inception* is going on all around you. There are demonically inspired forces at work trying to make you believe a lie, as they attempt to normalize a perversion. I don't have to go into what's going on in the classrooms (where 1st graders have to hear propaganda like *Heather Has Two Mommies*), or what's happening in the courtrooms, or sports, or churches, such as various mainline denominations that have embraced homosexual clergy, and some bless same-sex "marriage."

There's a radical agenda at work, and they want you to adopt their lies as your own. An inceptive plot is all around us and the forces behind it want you to swallow the lies that are being shoved down your throats. Lies that are subtly and not-so-subtly repeated all year long in various ways, and especially this month. In short, you're being gaslighted.

We've seen the American population embrace an array of LGBTQIA+¹ lies over the last few decades, and I would expect that to happen since the only thing that can defeat these lies is God's truth and most Americans have either rejected the truth of God's Word or the concept of absolute truth altogether.

¹ They keep adding to the acronym because they keep inventing new genders and perversions.

And sadly, because so many people in our culture lack **critical thinking** skills they have fallen for meaningless or **false slogans and platitudes** like “**Love is love.**” Well, if a picture is worth a thousand words, here is a response to that deceitful idea (an image of a straw about the drink clean water or from a toilet bowl). All “love” is not equal. Would they use this slogan for pedophilia or incest?

This onslaught of lies has influenced everything from Supreme Court nominee selections, military regulations, and lawsuits involving Christian bakers, photographers and florists, to harmful medical policies, adoption laws that discriminate against Christians, and appalling TV shows aimed at children. Satanic forces know that your God-given conscience will normally think that homosexuality is wrong, thus they use the culture to bombard you with lies so that you will adopt these lies as your own. The LGBT activists are using brain-washing techniques that they’ve admitted to using in the book *After the Ball* by Kirk and Madsen.

These authors acknowledge that the radical homosexual agenda copied brainwashing techniques that were used by communist China, but used them to change public opinion about homosexuality and same-sex marriage in America. And the homosexual activists are well-funded, well-organized, insidious, and ubiquitous.

Other Sins

Now, let me say that I am not here to pick on one sexual sin over another. If you are engaged in pre-marital sex or adultery or pornography then I would equally urge you to repent of your sins and receive forgiveness, freedom, and healing from Jesus Christ. But the fact is that Christians who embrace homosexual myths have reached epidemic proportions, and it needs to be addressed.

Deceived Christians

My goal for today is not to explain how to lovingly minister to homosexuals, but to convince people in the church that homosexuality is a sin because God’s Word says it is, and therefore, same-sex marriage is a counterfeit, a forgery, an illegitimate imitation. In fact, it’s not even a marriage because it’s not a union that God forges or blesses.

But shockingly, various studies show that anywhere between 35 to 45 percent of Protestant Christians believe that homosexuality is a normal or even God-blessed lifestyle – they have adopted the lies of the world and have not had their minds transformed and renewed by the Word (Romans 12).

Far too many Christians have been deceived by the world or have capitulated to the culture. But even if you agree that homosexuality is an offense to God and a perversion of His design for sex and marriage, the question is can you defend your beliefs? Can you counter the lies and tactics of those who want to brainwash the world into accepting their perversions? Can you show people the important Scriptures that tackle these issues?

Foundation and House

If acceptance of homosexuality is the foundation for activists, and same-sex marriage is the house built on that foundation, then I'd like to show you how the foundation (homosexuality) is fundamentally flawed and therefore same-sex marriage cannot be supported by Christians in any way, shape, or form. When you play *Jenga*, you usually try to remove a block from the area towards the top.

Today, I'd like to rip out a block from the bottom so that you'll see how the LGBTQIA+++ lies will crumble. In other words, when you see that God clearly condemns homosexuality, then you'll see He certainly opposes same-sex marriage.

Myth #1

So, let's look at **four** myths of homosexuality...

Myth #1 – Christians *inconsistently* interpret Old Testament passages about homosexuality so they must not be *applicable* today.

Several years ago, on an episode of *The West Wing*, fictional president Jed Bartlett confronted a popular radio psychologist, known for her stance against homosexuality. She was patterned after Dr. Laura Schlessinger, the popular conservative radio host, and the exchange went something like this.

The President said, "I hear you say on your radio show that homosexuality is a sin, an abomination." The Dr. Laura-Look-Alike answered, "I don't say homosexuality is an abomination Mr. President, the Bible does."

The President asked: "What Scriptures are you talking about?" The woman said: **Leviticus 18:22, "You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination [or detestable or disgusting to God, repulsive. And I'll add, "Abomination" is a word used for some of the most *serious* warnings and condemnations in Scripture]." (Leviticus 18:22).** She continued, **Leviticus 20:13** also says **"If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them."** (Leviticus 20:13)

The President replied, "Well, let me ask you Dr., if we're supposed to obey those Old Testament laws, should I put my chief of staff to death for **working on the Sabbath** as **Exodus 35:2** says? I understand you enjoy **football**. Yet every time your favorite team touches the ball made of **pigskin**, they violate **Leviticus 11:7-8** which says not to touch anything unclean... [As a side note, the NFL uses cowhide, but we'll give the "President" a pass.]

And by the way, the outfit you're wearing tonight is an abomination to God according to Lev 19:19, since it's made of two kinds of fabrics mixed together (which Deut. 22:11 also forbids).

Why do you hold onto some verses in Leviticus about homosexuality but dismiss the others as being irrelevant?”

The Dr. was completely baffled and silenced, so it looked like the President had won the debate. And I'm guessing that most people who watched the show thought the Bible was so archaic that they would never want to read it. But, in fact, the President didn't win the debate. I'll explain why. So, let's dissect this fictional President's arguments which are used all the time by journalists from the New York Times or Newsweek or used by advocacy groups that wrongly think they've backed us into a corner.

Abomination

First, this fictional president said that wearing the outfit with mixed fabrics was an abomination to God in Lev. 19:19 but that's not what the verse says. The passage merely forbade the Jews from wearing two kinds of materials mixed together because God wanted Israel to be a distinct nation, holy and separate. Most commentators point out that a mixture of wool and linen was used in the tabernacle and in the high priest's outer garments, so God was reserving it for sacred use.² But the Bible never says wearing mixed fabric is an abomination.

One commentary says, “Perhaps the reason for these commands was to remind God's people that they were separated to Him. They were to conform to God's holiness by keeping the distinctions that God made. Similarly, Israel was prohibited from mixing oils and incenses like those used in the tabernacle (cf. Ex 30:32–38).”³

The TV character tries to equate what God calls an abomination according to God's unchanging moral nature, to what God forbade the Jews to do for a limited time (mixing fabrics) as they lived among the nations as a theocracy in order to be distinct or set apart.

Temporary Nature of the Law

Second, the character only quoted Old Testament passages, but failed to quote the various New Testament passages on homosexuality. Do those not apply? He conveniently left them out. Third, he failed to acknowledge that while those Old Testament Laws applied to the Jews living in Israel, the Law of Moses was temporary and has been made obsolete with the coming of Christ as Hebrews 8:13 says.

Jesus spoke about how His followers would not have to observe certain Old Testament laws, such as the food or kosher laws in Mark 7:19 or the Sabbath laws as the Apostle Paul wrote about in Colossians 2.

² Victor Harold Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, and John H. Walton, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*, electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), Le 19:19.

³ John A. Jelinek, “Leviticus,” in *The Moody Bible Commentary*, ed. Michael A. Rydelnik and Michael Vanlaningham (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014), 203.

So, yes there was a change **from** what was required of the Israelites in the **Promised Land** under the **Old Covenant**, to what was required for people from all nations who have come to faith in Jesus Christ and are under the **New Covenant**. That's why we don't keep the Saturday Sabbath (and its *many* rules) or **kosher** dietary laws, or a host of other ceremonial laws (Lev. 19:27), but we recognize God's moral nature and holy will have not changed.

And that's why the death penalty isn't carried out for homosexuality – that was a civil law only for the theocracy of Israel under the Old Covenant. But it doesn't change the fact that sin is sin because God's holy nature never changes, even if the consequences for that sin have changed under various governments.

Still, consider the dreadful judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19, cities that were destroyed by God due to their widespread practice of homosexuality. This historical event, corroborated by archaeology, serves as a solemn reminder of the consequences of embracing ungodly lifestyles.

Not Under the Law

The Bible repeatedly says that Christians are not under the Law, the Old Covenant, (such as in Romans 6-7, 1 Cor. 9, and Gal. 3-5), but there are timeless principles from the Law that apply to our lives.

And one of the timeless principles from the Law that we derive from various passages about the obvious choice of homosexuality in the Old Testament, is that homosexuality is a sin. That is the timeless principle, and certainly also because it's repeated in the New Testament many times.

So, yes, Christians don't obey the food laws, or perform animal sacrifices, or follow a Mosaic law about pigskins being unclean, or observe a law that forbids wearing a cotton and wool blend, not because we're hypocrites or bigots, as homosexuals like to contend, but because we're good interpreters of the Bible. We recognize the difference between Israel and the Church, the differences between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, and we understand the progress of revelation.

New Testament Passages

You've heard Pastor Steve and Pastor Justin speak about the fact that the blueprint for sex and marriage in Genesis 1 and 2 is the union of one man and one woman, ideally for life. And we've seen a few verses in the Old Testament about homosexuality which contain serious warnings. Now, obviously the topic of hermeneutics or biblical interpretation can take up a few seminary courses, yet we've seen that - **NO, Christians do NOT inconsistently interpret Old Testament passages about homosexuality.**

But we should ask next: what does the New Testament specifically say about homosexuality, and therefore, by extension, same-sex marriage? Since we are those who live under the New

Covenant or New Testament, after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, what does the New Testament say about all of this?

Because the New Testament **sheds light** on the Old Testament, let's see if we're interpreting the whole Bible correctly and consistently.

In **Romans 1**, Paul says people reject God as their Creator and turn to idolatry. Then in verse 26, he writes: ²⁶**For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,** ²⁷**and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. (Romans 1:26-27)**

Now Paul wrote this in a time when homosexuality was rampant and celebrated in the Greco-Roman society. Many Roman emperors were homosexuals, and many men practiced what was essentially pedophilia (called pederasty). Nero, who was the evil Roman emperor when Paul wrote to the Romans, entered into same-sex marriages [likely a few years after Paul wrote the letter].

But none of that stopped Paul from boldly declaring the truth of God's Word. And as a side note, many historians believe that the Roman Empire fell because of its moral decay, so let that be a warning to us. Notice, clearly in this passage, "men with men" and "women with women" are spoken of in negative ways, as God says they commit indecent or shameful acts through these degrading or vile passions – which God says comes with a built-in penalty or judgment.

Homosexuality is a perversion and distortion of God's intended relationship between men and women and carries its own destructive penalty. (Mounce, *New American Commentary*)

Now, gay activists will claim that what this passage is saying is that it is perverse for a *heterosexual* man to engage in a homosexual act because he would be acting *unnaturally*, but they claim that homosexuals are acting naturally. However, that's not what these verses say at all.

They clearly say that a "man with a man" or a "woman with a woman" is unnatural or perverse – it goes against God's design for sexuality and what God intended for His creatures. Homosexuality is contrary to human nature in general. A simple study of anatomy and biology proves this.

So, these verses are about what is natural according to God's design or created order, not what is so-called natural or unnatural according to an individual's personal nature. It's about deforming God's blueprint. It would be like scribbling over a masterpiece, like the Mona Lisa by Da Vinci.

Thomas Schreiner wrote, “Just as idolatry is a violation and perversion of what God intended [worshipping God], so too same-sex relations are contrary to what God planned when he created man and woman.”⁴ That’s how it’s unnatural and distorted. It spits on God’s gift of sex.

Nothing in the passage suggests that this is about a person who is really straight, but acting gay – that is just another way people try to twist the Scriptures to fit their sinful desires. The verses are about the depths of depravity, rebellion, and idolatry, not about someone going against their inclinations or desires.

Some gay academics claim Paul is only condemning pedophilia or male prostitution here and in other passages, but not consensual same-sex relationships. They claim he’d approve of that. None of that stands up to any scrutiny whatsoever. The Bible is crystal clear from the OT to the NT and the Greek terms are unambiguous.

Let’s look at **1 Corinthians 6:9**:

⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators [sexually immoral], nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [malakos (μαλακός)], [this word refers to the “passive” partner in homosexual conduct], nor homosexuals [arsenokoites (ἀρσενοκοίτης)] [this refers to the active partner in homosexual conduct], ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

We’re supposed to celebrate and take pride in that which God says will exclude people from salvation? And we’re supposed to do that for a whole month! I think not! The culture wants us to celebrate a lifestyle that leads to so many moral, spiritual, relational, medical, mental, and social problems. The world has gone mad.

Choices

But we should also ask based on this passage - is every sin in this list a choice except for homosexuality? Of course not. In the Bible, all sin is a choice, period. And if homosexual conduct is a sin before God, then you can’t say that you were “born that way.”

God would never exclude from heaven or the kingdom of God people He quote, unquote, “made that way.” God supposedly made you gay, and God said gays can’t be saved. Yeah, that makes sense. No, God is never the author of sin, nor would He exclude someone from salvation based on an immutable trait such as skin color or blood type.

⁴ Thomas R. Schreiner, *Romans*, ed. Robert W. Yarbrough and Joshua W. Jipp, Second Edition., Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic: A Division of Baker Publishing Group, 2018), 102.

Homosexuality is a choice, not an immutable, genetic trait. To say otherwise is to remove personal responsibility. Do you think God would ban people from heaven based on something that's out of their control?

Furthermore, follow this irrefutable logic – if Jesus died for every sin on this list, like stealing, getting drunk, coveting, or adultery, then it follows that homosexuality, like those other sins on the list, is a choice because Jesus didn't die for genetic traits that we have no control over! He died, paying the penalty for sins that we choose to commit.

So, the cross of Christ and the gift of salvation is the solution for homosexuals, not acceptance and celebration of their sin. And certainly not calling their choice a fatalistic genetically inherited trait, which I hope to prove to you later.

In **1 Timothy 1:8-10**, the Bible says: ⁸ **But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully,** ⁹ **realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers ¹⁰ and sexually immoral men and homosexuals [arsenokoites (ἀρσενοκοίτης)] and kidnappers [literally slave traders, a person who kidnaps and then sells someone into slavery, a human trafficker] and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching... (1 Timothy 1:8-10)**

The Bible lists homosexuals among the ungodly and sinners. Now, you've seen three passages in the New Testament – **Romans 1, 1 Cor. 6, and 1 Timothy 1** that clearly say homosexuality is a sin and a choice like the other sins listed in those passages. So clearly we're being consistent from the OT to the NT and obviously its applicable to today, contrary to the first myth. But someone may say, "Steve, you're quoting **Paul, not Jesus.**" What does Jesus say about all of this? Well, that leads us to: **Myth #2. The myth that - Jesus never condemned homosexuality.**

ABC and the Abyssinian Baptist Church

I remember I was watching an ABC special some years ago that clearly had an agenda. Peter Jennings⁵ interviewed this liberal pastor from the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, New York, a pastor who is very influential in that region.

Jennings said, "So, you don't believe there's anything wrong with homosexuality. How do you hold that view contrary to so many other Christians when the Bible speaks about it as a sin?" And the pastor said, "Well, Paul said that homosexuality is a sin, but not Jesus. Paul was not Jesus." And sounding 'oh so spiritual and wise,' the pastor said, "We listen to Jesus, not Paul."

So, that means you'd have to throw out about 25% of the New Testament which Paul penned under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. But even worse – what makes people think that

⁵ <http://www.irr.org/abc-jesus-and-paul.html>

Matthew, a mere mortal who wrote about Jesus, recorded God's Word accurately, but Paul, also a mere mortal, didn't? In other words, Jesus, the God-man didn't pen a Gospel. Mere men – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote the gospels under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, just as Paul wrote.

So, we have to accept that men, through God's guidance, wrote the Bible. Matthew's record of Jesus' teachings is as equally inspired as Paul's writings. It's all God's Word, God's revelation. The Harlem pastor forgot that, like Paul's writings, the Gospels that discuss the Jesus He claims to follow, were written by mere men such as Mark and John, not Jesus himself. Therefore, The pastor's reasoning is flawed, not to mention his theology.

The Bible says that the writers of Scripture were guided by the Holy Spirit in a manner similar to how wind moves the sails of a boat. They were carried along by the Holy Spirit to produce God's flawless Word, as you can read in 2 Peter 1.

So, does it matter whether Paul wrote a letter or Mark shared Jesus' words? No. They were all under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and wrote God's perfect, inerrant, infallible Word. We believe each book in the canon of Scripture is equally God-breathed. All 66 books are equally God's Word. We don't believe that Jesus' words are more inspired than Paul's, or that Moses' words are more divine than Isaiah's.

If you believe God created this vast and wondrous universe, then you can believe that He's able to author a book. Not a problem for an all-powerful God. Are we forgetting that the Bible says in **Luke 1:37**, "**Nothing will be impossible for God**"?

If Jesus raised Himself from the dead (John 2:19), then I think He can take care of writing a book. So, the myth that Jesus never spoke against homosexuality is bogus since Christians believe that Jesus equally authored all of God's Word, as the God of His Word, be it Leviticus or Romans, Genesis or Matthew.

The Marriage Pattern

Now, the argument is true that all Scripture is equally inspired by God as 2 Timothy 3:16 says. But there's another argument that refutes the 2nd myth. It's this: **Jesus *did* condemn homosexuality by upholding God's pattern and design for human sexuality.**

When the Pharisees questioned the Lord about the thorny issue of divorce, Jesus pointed them back to the Creation account to remind them of God's good, original, and holy design.

It is written in **Matthew 19:4**:

⁴ And Jesus answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE [Gen. 1:27], ⁵ and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL

BECOME ONE FLESH’? [Jesus, quoting Genesis 2 here, *primarily* refers to the sexual union that only a man and a woman can experience according to God’s good design] ⁶ **So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”** (Matthew 19:4-6)

Jesus Affirmed God’s Design

Now, don’t miss this! Jesus never directly spoke out against bestiality, incest, pedophilia, necrophilia, or many other sexual aberrations. He didn’t have to. Why? Because by affirming God’s original design for human sexuality, Jesus automatically condemned any and every deviation from that standard.

God’s design is simple: one man and one woman in marriage can have sex, and anything outside of that, premarital sex, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, prostitution, or any other deviation or perversion is sin in God’s holy eyes. It’s wrong, and should be shunned - not celebrated or promoted as normal.

The Plumbing

These verses show that Jesus intended sex to be practiced in the marital relationship – a monogamous, male-female relationship. This is how God designed us physically. Homosexuality does not work physically; the plumbing was not designed for those practices. An exit-only part is not an entrance, and I’ll leave it at that.

Plus, it’s through God’s design that procreation takes place. If you want to know God’s design for sexuality, consider which way produces children. Bingo. That’s the answer. It sounds cliché, but God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve, for a reason. Male and female together properly reflect God’s image, complement each other anatomically, and only a man and a woman can naturally produce children or procreate.

Christ and the Church

And let’s not forget that in Ephesians 5, Paul says that God created Adam and Eve, husband and wife, to reflect the relationship between Christ and His bride, the church. Two men or two women cannot reflect Christ and the church.

Quoting **Genesis 2**, Paul writes in **Ephesians 5:31**:

³¹ **FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH** [Gen. 2:24]. ³² **This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:31-32)**

Christ didn’t marry Christ... and the church didn’t marry the church – as same-sex marriage perversely pictures. Christ’s bride is the church (as you can read in the previous verses in Ephesians 5). Marriage is a symbol of Christ and the church embedded in the creation of Adam and Eve and the covenant of marriage (Ephesians 5:32).

Only a husband and wife, two different and complementary sexes coming together as one, can illustrate the beautiful union that God wanted to picture between Jesus and the Church.

And as a side note, many studies reveal that over 50% of male same-sex “marriages” are open marriages. In one study, **gay men reported having between 500 (43%) and 1,000 (28%) other sexual partners besides their marital spouse** – that’s 71% that are open marriages and beyond promiscuous.⁶ That’s not marriage.

While we’re called to love those who need Jesus Christ, especially those who are enslaved in their sin as we were, the simple fact is that two men or two women together cannot represent the divine design God intended when He created man and woman for marriage to symbolize the relationship between God and His people for His glory.

Violin and Bow

Think of it this way. By themselves a violin and a bow can’t do much. Two bows together can’t create any music – they just mirror each other because they’re the same. They don’t complement each other. But a violin and a bow together, because of their differences, can create something magnificent. It’s the same with the two parts of humanity – male and female.

Together, men and women reflect the image of God in ways they can’t alone. Marriage is the coming together of two different parts to make a whole (unless you have a special calling to be single and celibate as 1 Cor. 7 says).

Same-sex relationships do not make this complementary wholeness – they are missing the necessary ingredient – either male or female, which is why same-sex “marriage” by definition is not marriage at all – it’s a counterfeit.

You don’t buy two locks alone in a set, or two keys alone in a set, a lock works with a key. A plug works with a socket. You don’t use a plug with a plug or a socket with a socket. So, did Jesus condemn homosexuality? Yes, absolutely, by affirming and upholding His creation of male and female for sex and marriage and His design from Genesis regarding that union in Matthew 19.

Porneia Argument

But just to hammer home the point, I believe Jesus actually did speak more directly to the issue of homosexuality than people may realize. For example, Jesus said in Mark 7:21: ²¹ **“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications [*porneia*], thefts, murders, adulteries, ²² deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. ²³ All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.” (Mark 7:21-23)**

⁶ A. P. Bell and M. S. Weinberg, *Homosexualities: A Study of Diversity Among Men and Women* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978), pp. 308

The word that's translated "fornications" is a very broad word. It's the word *porneia* and some translations have a footnote there that says, "acts of sexual immorality." Now, if you look in any New Testament Greek lexicon or dictionary, it will say that *porneia* refers to any sexual sin. It can refer to prostitution, adultery, incest, bestiality, homosexuality, and more.

Jesus didn't need to list every possible sexual sin, because again, He simply upheld God's original design of sex within marriage. Jesus assumed Old Testament morality, and didn't need to repeat what the Hebrew Scriptures said about incest, bestiality, child sacrifice, or a host of other sins, including homosexuality.

But the very fact that he used the word *porneia* in His teachings, would no doubt trigger in the Greek reader's mind that homosexuality was sinful or evil as Jesus said in verse 23. Jesus covered all of His bases, so to speak, by using that wide-ranging word, *porneia*. **So don't believe the myth that Jesus never condemned or disapproved of homosexuality anymore than you should believe the myth that Jesus never condemned wife-beating since there's not one specific verse from His mouth in the Gospels on that either.**

God's Word often wisely gives general principles because they address more scenarios than referring to one specific situation. In commanding husbands to love their wives, Jesus ruled out all abuses, whether verbal, emotional, or physical (like wife-beating). And in teaching that marriage and sex is between a husband and a wife, Jesus ruled out all perversions, especially homosexuality, as any good Jewish rabbi would do.

And let's not forget that Jesus preached about Sodom and Gomorrah as a warning about judgment a number of times, so He did speak about homosexuality. Therefore, any sexual relationships outside of the one-man, one-woman procreative union is immoral and contrary to our biology, contrary to God's creation design (Adam and Eve), and contrary to God's Word.

Alright, the third myth, **Myth #3, is that Science has proven that people are born gay.**

Ann Landers wrote, "People are born gay" – and millions of people foolishly believed her false statement. Now, I'm only going to share the tip of the iceberg. Trust me, there are countless resources that look at dozens of scientific studies, but we'll just touch on a few.

Dr. Neil Whitehead wrote this: "If homosexuality were significantly influenced by genes, it would appear in every culture, but in **29 of 79 cultures** surveyed by Ford and Beach, **homosexuality was rare or absent.**" – and this was independent of legal or social prohibitions or taboos.

That's from the book *My Genes Made Me Do It: A Scientific Look at Sexual Orientation* which was based on a 15-year review of more than 10,000 scientific papers and publications on

homosexuality. A different study by **Broude and Greene** found that in **59% of 186 cultures (109 cultures), homosexuality was rare or absent.**⁷

These findings show that the presence of homosexuality can be heavily influenced by cultural norms, values, and propaganda, and it's not uniformly distributed across all human societies.

Genetic Studies

You should also know that no study which claimed homosexuality was a genetic or inborn trait has ever been replicated. The media will claim the study settles the matter, but then when the study is proven false, the media will never retract or correct their articles because they're not interested in the truth but being politically correct.

Many of these studies, primarily conducted by people with a pro-homosexual agenda, have resulted in some scientists being convicted of scientific fraud or research misconduct, leading to their inability to continue their research. That being said, some studies, which the media claimed showed that homosexuality had a genetic cause, actually concluded the opposite.

But the media misrepresented the conclusions because they're funded by many politically influential and wealthy homosexual activists, who are a part of the so-called Gay Mafia. Google it, it's a real thing that various publications like *Time* magazine have covered.

The summary of every scientific study ever conducted on this subject was made by Dr. Joel Gelernter, Yale's Professor of Genetics and Neuroscience. He wrote, "All were announced with great fanfare; all were greeted unskeptically in the popular press; all are now in disrepute." – C. Mann, "Genes and Behavior," *Science* 264:1687 (1994).⁸

Even PFLAG, *Parents for Lesbians and Gays*, the largest LGBT advocacy group, now admits that genes cannot and do not determine sexual orientation.

Identical Twins

The simplest way to refute the claim that homosexuality is genetically inherited is this, and trust me, there is no way around this no matter what anyone says. Two words: identical twins (or monozygotic twins, meaning from the same egg). Identical twins have the same exact DNA, the same exact genetic makeup.

Here's the problem. When studies have been done looking at identical twins where one was a homosexual or a lesbian, these studies have shown that only about 10% of identical twins are both homosexuals or lesbians.

⁷ Broude, Gwen J., and Sarah J. Greene. 1976. "Cross-Cultural Codes on Twenty Sexual Attitudes and Practices." *Ethnology* 15 (4): 409–29.

⁸ <https://www.tomorrowworld.org/magazines/2008/january-february/the-plain-truth-about-homosexuality>;
<https://arcapogetics.org/the-gay-gene/>

The point: **Since identical twins have the same genetic code then why aren't both twins homosexuals 100% of the time - if homosexuality is genetically determined?** Just to be clear, I'm **not** saying this study found that 10% of all identical twins are homosexuals. Homosexuals makeup only 2% of the worldwide population.

What I'm saying is that when you look at 1000 pairs of identical twins where one twin is a homosexual, 9 out of 10 times, the other twin is not a homosexual, which proves that homosexuality cannot be genetic since they have identical genes.

Or as Dr. Satinover, an expert on this issue wrote, "This finding alone argues for the enormous importance of nongenetic factors influencing homosexuality because in order for something to be genetically determined, as opposed to merely influenced, the genetic heritability would need to approach 100 percent."⁹

Other studies trying to prove that homosexuality is genetic examine prenatal hormone exposure, finger lengths, hypothalamus sizes, eye blinks, ear sizes, and other factors and every single study has been proven to be utterly false. They've all been discredited.

The Gay Gene?

The "gay gene" has not been found and NEVER will be found because there isn't one. And get this - the entire human genome, our entire DNA has already been mapped through the *Human Genome Project*. And no gay gene was found.¹⁰ I think that settles the matter.

Plus there is an enormous debate about how much our genes could even influence our behavior and choices in the field of behavioral genetics. And again, we've seen that like other sins, homosexuality is a choice. So, that's a quick summary of a huge subject. No one is born gay.

I have one more point to share in a minute. Some other points I wanted to discuss, but cut, are covered in a book by a great New Testament scholar, presented in a very accessible way, called ***God, Marriage, and Family*** by Andreas Köstenberger. So, check that out if you want to delve into this topic some more.

So, the final myth that I want to address, **Myth #4** is that **Homosexuals can't change.**

First, study after study, and testimony after testimony, such as ones in the book called *Coming out of Homosexuality* by Bob Davies and Lori Rentzel, show that many homosexuals have changed after trusting in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

⁹ Dr. Jeffrey Satinover, *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*, p. 85. There can be slight mutations among each twin after the egg splits, but it would only account for possibly .1% of differences and nothing that is significant or influences behavior. 99.9% of the genes are exactly the same.

¹⁰ http://www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human_Genome/publicat/judicature/article4.html

Genesis Counseling led by Joe Dallas, an ex-homosexual, and many other Christian ministries have also seen tremendous success because of the transforming power of Christ. You can also read about Rosaria Butterfield's powerful testimony in her books or online.

A monumental study, by Jones and Yarhouse, concluded that about 40% of homosexuals changed successfully and that the change did not harm the person as secular psychologists often claim.¹¹

And get this – this will blow your mind – various studies have shown that lesbians have more male sexual partners than heterosexual females have. Some gay people may claim they have one preference or choice, or are even born a certain way, but their actions betray their words.

A renowned study found that **“The median number of lifetime male sexual partners was significantly *greater* for lesbians than heterosexual women (twelve partners versus six). Lesbians were significantly more likely to report more than fifty lifetime male sexual partners.”**¹² That deserves much more commentary, but I'll leave it at that.

There are many more studies which show that numerous homosexuals have left that lifestyle, and there are many anecdotes involving celebrities like Anne Heche who dated Ellen DeGeneres for three years but then married a man. There are tons of stories like that. But our faith is not in anecdotes or science as helpful as science can be. No, we trust in God's infinite power, and we have faith in His perfect Word and the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior.

Ex-Homosexuals

1 Cor. 6 makes it clear that homosexuals did change after being saved by Christ. I read this passage to you earlier from 1 Cor. 6, but I **intentionally** didn't finish the paragraph. Now please listen to it all:

⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.
(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

In other words, you **were** homosexuals, but you're **no longer** homosexuals because you've been saved and changed by Jesus Christ. God's Word says He can save and change homosexuals. Period. So, who are you going to believe – God or people's fallen reason? God's Word, or sinful men? Homosexuals can change by God's grace.

¹¹ *Homosexuality: The Use of Scientific Research in the Church's Moral Debate* by Stanton Jones and Mark Yarhouse

¹² Katherine Fethers et al., "Sexually Transmitted Infections and Risk Behaviors in Women Who Have Sex with Women," *Sexually Transmitted Infections* 76 (2000): 347.

Salvation in Christ

Our biggest problem is sin, and there is only one solution for sin, the Gospel of Jesus the King. Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead, so that those who trust in Him, who repent of their sins and place their faith in Him, can be forgiven, cleansed, have an eternal relationship with Him, and be transformed each day by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ alone offers genuine healing, lasting change, and eternal hope. May we all trust in Him and His Word for the health of our souls, the good of our families, and the glory of God.

And may we boldly call sin, sin, and a counterfeit a **counterfeit**. Because the **genuine article** is worth defending. ***Let's pray.***

Closing Verse:

2 Cor. 5:17 says: **Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)**

See also: Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. (Hebrews 13:4)