

Series: **Rising Above**

Title: **“Same-Sex Attraction”**



God's plan for human sexuality and marriage is part of His created order of the world, and it is both holy and good. God created humanity as male and female, and He made male and female to complement one

another (spiritually, emotionally, and physically) and to procreate. This divine design emphasizes that the biblical mandate for sexuality is between a man and a woman in a covenant relationship of marriage.

Homosexuality attempts to dismantle God's design by insisting that individuals are free to follow their feelings rather than the objective truth of God's Word.

Text: Genesis 1:27

Scripture Passages

Leviticus 18:22 “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.”

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Matthew 19:4–5 “4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?”

Romans 1:26–27 “26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.”

Romans 1:32 “Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 “9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

Colossians 3:5 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:”

James 1:13–15 “13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Jude 7–8 “7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them, in like manner giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. 8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.”

Practical Ways to Rise Above Same-Sex Attraction

1. Accept God's definition of _____.

There is a major push in our culture to normalize homosexuality —both as a practice and as an identity. A 2023 Gallup poll found that 71% of Americans think same-sex marriage should be legal. Bible-believing Christians need clarity and conviction regarding the clear statements of God's Word. (See Scriptures passages)

Acknowledging God's definition of sin is the starting place for finding victory over it. (Lev. 18:22)

2. _____ sin to God.

If we defend our sinful choices as "that's just who I am," we will remain in bondage to them. (And this distinction applies to far more areas than homosexual temptations. This is also true of people who struggle with frequent outbursts of anger or other sins.) But when we acknowledge these as sin before God, we can confess those sins and receive His forgiveness. Part of gaining victory over any sin is to confess all known sin to God, including the harboring of fantasies and the sinful actions. Christians who do this are assured of God's cleansing. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

3. Gain a biblical understanding of your _____.

At the heart of struggles with same-sex attraction is a misunderstanding of our God-given identity. The world tells us that our identity is defined by our sexual desires. God tells us that our identity is created by God and that His plan is for our good. Your identity is defined by God. God created you and defines your identity. God created us as male or female (Genesis 1:27) and ordained the institution of marriage (Genesis 2:24). Jesus affirmed marriage between one man and one woman in a lifetime commitment as God's good design for human sexuality (Matthew 19:4-6).

4. Everyone struggles with sinful _____.

With the Fall of man in the Garden of Eden, sin entered the world (Genesis 3:6-7). And with sin came temptation and disordered desires of all kinds. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:13-15). These disordered desires can include sexual temptations of various kinds, including homosexual temptations. We see this easily in other areas of temptation. If someone is tempted to adultery, for instance, it's easy to see that desire of the flesh as **unrighteous and something that should be denied**. Just because we feel something does not make it healthy or right, and it certainly doesn't make it a God-given desire. **Sin will always twist your desires to become more and more sinful.**

5. Christians are called to put to _____ the desires of the flesh.

Your identity is not defined by how you feel or what you desire. It is defined by who God made you and His plan for you. Rather than feeding sinful desires, we are instructed to mortify them-to put them to death. "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5).

6. Turn to God for _____ from past wounds.

There can be many influences that contribute to same-sex desires, and these influences often include past hurts and trauma. If you are dealing with the hurt of sexual abuse or some other trauma, you will need to address this with God's grace and an understanding of His healing for you. Thankfully, He is a God who "healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3).

7. Commit to the Biblical process of _____ and surrender daily!

Overcoming the sins associated with same-sex attraction involves the same process as overcoming any other area of sinful temptation. When a person is born again in Christ, they become a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17). **This doesn't mean that all temptation is removed; it means that we now have God's grace within to resist temptation and respond to it with obedience toward God.** Many people who struggle with same-sex attraction hope that these desires and temptations will simply vanish. Generally, **we must make repeated choices to acknowledge Christ as our Lord and submit to Him while denying the flesh.** Over time, the draw toward that sin becomes weaker, and our satisfaction in Christ becomes stronger. Completely surrender to God's plan for you.

8. _____ in your relationship with the Lord.

A significant component of victory over any temptation is finding joy in Christ rather than in satisfying the desires of the flesh. This comes as we place a priority on our walk with God and growth in Him. "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)