

**THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT THE BIBLE *DESCRIBES*
AND WHAT THE BIBLE *PRESCRIBES***

MATTHEW 19:4–12 NLT

"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning ***'God made them male and female.'***⁵ And he said, 'This explains why ***a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.'***⁶ Since they are no longer two but one, ***let no one split apart what God has joined together.***"

...***"Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended."***⁹ ...whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful."

Jesus' disciples then said to him, "If this is the case, it is better not to marry!" "Not everyone can accept this statement," Jesus said. "Only those whom God helps.¹² ***Some are born*** as eunuchs, ***some have been made eunuchs*** by others, and ***some choose*** not to marry ***for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven...***"

READ THE SCRIPTURES: GENESIS 1:27–28 EPHESIANS 5:31–32

WHAT GOD HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED...

REPRODUCTION:

"...be fruitful...increase..."

COMPLEMENTATION:

"...the two are united into one..."

REFLECTION:

"...Christ and the church are one..."

TO BEST HELP THOSE WHO STRUGGLE WITH SAME-SEX ATTRACTION...

- we must include _____ on the biblical list of sins
 - we must keep it in the _____ place on that list
 - we must recognize that temptation is different than sin
 - we must emphasize the _____ of Jesus
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EPHESIANS 3:16–19 NIV

I pray that out of *his glorious riches* he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts *through faith*.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, *to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ*,¹⁹ and to know *this love that surpasses knowledge*—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

ARE SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS AFFIRMED IN THE BIBLE?

LEVITICUS 18:22 NLT

"Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man...It is a detestable sin.

1 TIMOTHY 1:9–11 NLT

READ THE ENTIRE PASSAGE!

...The law is for people who are sexually immoral, or who practice homosexuality, or are slave traders, liars, promise breakers, or who do anything else that contradicts the wholesome teaching ¹¹ that comes from the glorious Good News entrusted to me...

ROMANS 1:24–27 NLT

READ THE ENTIRE PASSAGE!

...Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. ²⁷ And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9–20 ESV

READ THE ENTIRE PASSAGE!

...do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **men who practice homosexuality**, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards...will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus...The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body...**Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute?** Never! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but **the sexually immoral person sins against his own body**. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

5 QUICK POINTS FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-20:

1. **There are many types of sins on this list.** Too many people treat same-sex attraction as a "worse" sin. It's sin. But the worst sin is the one I won't leave behind for Jesus. Sexual sin of any kind has unique consequences. **See point 4.**
2. **"...men who practice homosexuality..."** In an attempt to justify committed same-sex relationships, some misinterpret the Bible and claim that only violent, non-consensual, or casual homosexual acts are forbidden. This passage was originally written in Greek, a far more descriptive language that makes it more clear. Both the active and passive partner in a consensual homosexual act are indicted. See citation below.

ἀρσενικοῦτης, ου m: the active male partner in homosexual intercourse.

μαλακός, ου m: the passive male partner in homosexual intercourse. As in Greek, a number of other languages also have distinct terms for active and passive roles in homosexual intercourse.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament*: (pp. 771–772)

3. **"...Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute?..."** I think we would see our sexual sin differently if we always remember that our bodies are Christ's bodies. I'm not just using my body for something shameful. *I'm using His body for something shameful!*
4. **"...the sexually immoral person sins against his own body..."** Sexual sin of any kind has unique consequences. Modern psychology now proves this to be true. When I sin sexually, I am literally re-wiring the electrical impulses in my brain to be more dependent on a similar but more extensive experience. I am feeding an addiction.
5. **"...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit..."** The first key to freedom is recognizing that your urges, feelings, and temptations cannot be obeyed, they must be trained. Your flesh will shout about its desires. But your body is His!