

Ready to Respond

Is homosexuality a sin ?

Prevailing Ideas in our Culture

Homosexuality is innate.
Homosexuality is fixed.
Homosexuality is loving.
Homosexuality is Christian.
Homosexuality is biblical.

Romans 1:21-32 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. **24** Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. **25** They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen. **26** Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. **27** In the same way the 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. **28** Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. **29** They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, **30** slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; **31** they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. **32** Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Four Fold Progression of Sin

Sin disorders my worship.
Sin disorders my beliefs.
Sin disorders my desires.
Sin disorders my behavior.

Sin disorders my worship

v. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised.

Sin disorders my beliefs

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Sin disorders my desires

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Sin disorders my behaviors

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Sin leads to making bad exchanges.

Bad Exchange #1 : God's pattern for my preferences.

Genesis 1:26-28, 31 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **28** God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." **31** God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Genesis 2:18,21-25 **18** The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." **21** So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. **22** Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. **23** The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." **24** For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. **25** The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Four Things Which God Calls "Good"

Sexuality is good.

Reproduction is good.

Marriage is good.

Sex is good.

Bad Exchange #2 : God's praise for my pleasures.

Bad Exchange #3 : God's truth for culture's tolerance.

Bad Exchange #4 : God's words for human experiences.

Genesis 19:4-7 NIV Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom--both young and old--surrounded the house. **5** They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them." **6** Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him **7** and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing.

Jude 1:7 NIV Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion.

Lev. 18:22 NLT "Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin.

Lev. 20:13 NIV 'If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

I Corinthians 6:9-10 NLT Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, **10** or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. **11** Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

I Timothy 1:9-10 NCV We also know that the law is not made for good people but for those who are against the law and for those who refuse to follow it. It is for people who are against God and are sinful, who are not holy and have no religion, who kill their fathers and mothers, who murder, **10** who take part in sexual sins, who have sexual relations with people of the same sex, who sell slaves, who tell lies, who speak falsely, and who do anything against the true teaching of God.

For those advocating and celebrating Same Sex Marriage, they have to hold to one or more of these beliefs :

The Bible is irrelevant.

The Bible is inconsistent.

The Bible is insufficient.

Bad Exchange #5 : Sexual responsibility for supposed rights.

Bad Exchange #6 : Moral obligation for natural explanations.

I don't always get to choose my temptations, but I always get to choose my reactions.

The Best Exchange : My will for God's will

Mark 8:31-34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **35** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. **36** What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? **37** Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

Ready to Respond - Six Responses

Avoid selective moral outrage.

Assess my own spiritual and sexual condition.

Express humble compassion.

Maintain deep conviction.

Seek to bring God glory in all things.

Proclaim God's gospel to all people.