

# A Scriptural Response to Homosexuality

## Lesson 9: Contemporary Applications

### INTRODUCTION

In this series we have explored what the Old and New Testament Scriptures say about sin, grace, forgiveness, love, sexuality, and identity, especially as these pertain to same-sex attraction and behavior. I pray that these lessons have given us a well-rounded perspective to see that these same Scriptures also speak to us all. We will devote this closing session to applying what we have learned to contemporary situations—both hypothetical and real-life.

\*\*Adapted from *Deadly Desires: A Study of Homosexuality* by Richard D. Starr, Northwestern Publishing House, 2007.

### THINK ABOUT IT

#### **-Scenario 1-**

1.) What would you do if your son or daughter, nephew or niece, or even your spouse suddenly told you that he or she is gay?

DO	DON'T

2.) What questions and perceptions might help guide our loving Christian response to such a revelation?

**-Scenario 2-**

A young woman named Samantha has struggled with the Scripture's prohibitions against homosexuality all of her life. She tried to change herself. She prayed every day to have sexual feelings for boys, but no change came. Then one day she met "a very wise and wonderful pastor" who, she said, "opened her eyes." He suggested that each of the Scripture passages that troubled her could be interpreted in different ways. He talked about how different religions hold to various beliefs regarding homosexuality. He told her that these feelings are a part of the whole person that God has created. She said that she is relieved to know that she is a Christian who is gay.

1.) Where in this description do you see opportunities to lovingly listen, encourage, and expound upon the grace and truth of God's Word with Samantha?

**- Scenario 3-**

Barry, an openly gay (secular) coworker, is proud that he has grown to the point where he can accept himself as he is. He is happy to live in a large metropolitan area with a substantial gay population. Seeing others who are openly gay, he says, has encouraged him to be himself.

1.) What openings does this situation provide for dialoguing with Barry?

**- Scenario 4-**

Brad and Carol sat in their pastor's office, desperate for some help. They had three children under age 9 and didn't know what to do. Carol's dad wanted to visit. The problem was, he had recently divorced Carol's mom and moved in with his male lover. He was also a Lutheran pastor, whose congregation supported him in his decision.

Brad didn't want to have anything to do with him and definitely didn't want his example influencing his children. Carol also condemned her father's actions but still wanted to reach out to him. She still wanted him in her life and the lives of her children.

1.) What advice might you give to Brad and Carol?

2.) What could make a visit of Carol's dad impossible?

### -Scenario 5-

The kitchen was cleaned up, the children's homework was finished, and Sharon could finally sit down and watch her favorite TV show. Her teenage daughter, Rachel, was watching with her. One of the show's story lines revolved around a female doctor's struggle with lesbianism, a struggle she was losing. Sharon mentioned how disappointed she was with that part of the show and changed the channel. Rachel quickly objected. She said she knew several lesbians at her high school and could understand the attraction. "Boys are so rude, selfish, and clueless about how to make a girl feel good."

1.) What advice would you give Sharon about how to react to Rachel's statement?

### CONCLUSION

What Bible principles are your big take-aways from this course—how to address homosexuality in a Christian manner?