Same-Sex Attraction
Gender Matters Message Series Week 4
Romans 1:24-31
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
October 16, 2022

A. What is a biblical perspective on same-sex attraction?

1. As a result of living in a broken and sinful world, individuals will experience <u>same</u>-<u>sex</u> attractions. (Genesis 3:23-24)

   "If people are born with same-sex desires, it doesn't mean that same-sex love is God's design. Because of Adam and Eve's sin, we've all inherited a rebellious nature with sinful desires leading to death (Romans 7:14-18). Intrinsic desires don't determine whether a longing is good or bad. God's word alone defines truth. Sexuality is determined by our Designer, not our desires. (Psalm 19:7-11)"
   <div align="right">www.regenerationrecovery.org/struggles</div>

2. Same-sex attraction is a <u>temptation</u>, not a sin. (James 1:13-15)

3. The Bible describes homosexual acts as <u>sinful</u>. (Romans 1:24-27)

4. The Bible describes homosexuality as one of many sins, not the <u>worst</u> of all sins. (Romans 1:28-31)

5. Through Christ, homosexuals can be cleansed, forgiven, and live <u>victoriously</u>. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

   "Without Christ you're powerless to change, but Christ redefines and changes all who trust Him. Willpower won't overcome sin. Those who accept Christ receive a new Spirit and new identity defined by Christ's work on the cross. God may or may not remove a Christian's same-sex attraction, but the Holy Spirit will give him or her a supernatural ability to resist temptation and live joyfully in God's will."
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B. How should Christians respond?

1. With the <u>grace</u> and <u>truth</u> of Jesus. (John 1:14-17)

   - Grace means we show love and compassion. (Matthew 9:36)

   - Grace means we develop relationships and friendships with them. (Luke 15:1-2)

   - Truth means we lovingly challenge believers to turn from their sin. (Matthew 18:15; Galatians 6:1)

   - Truth means we challenge nonbelievers to embrace the gospel. (Romans 1:18)

2. We treat them with dignity and <u>respect</u>. (1 Peter 2:17)

3. We need to do all that is within our power to <u>protect</u> children from deceptive lies. (Luke 17:1-3)

C. How should churches respond?

1. We need to have <u>grace</u>-<u>filled</u> environments where people are free to talk about same-sex attraction.

   "God deeply loves people with same-sex attraction. Sadly, many churches have ostracized gay identified people. God doesn't see people with same-sex attraction as greater sinners than others. Every time the New Testament references homosexual practice as a sexual sin, it is within the context of other sins. He offers the same redemptive plan to *all* people. He discourages any sexual sin (regardless of gender attraction) outside of His plan for sexual expression because He loves us and sin is destructive."

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2. We need to provide <u>hospitality</u> and <u>friendship</u> for those with same-sex attraction.

3. We need to provide the tools and <u>resources</u> to help them live victorious lives.

D. What if I struggle with same-sex attraction?

1. Let others help <u>carry</u> your burden. (Galatians 6:2)

2. Pursue <u>holiness</u>. (Titus 2:11-12)

3. Wait for the blessed hope of the return of <u>Christ</u>. (Titus 2:12-13)

Recommended Resources:

1. **re:generation**

    - Every Monday at 7:00 p.m. at CBC
    - For those who are "stuck" and looking for healing, hope, and freedom
    - No need to register, come as you are and start anytime

2. **Growth group** for those who have family members who struggle with same-sex attraction

    - Meets monthly on Sundays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
    - Next meeting is on October 30
    - Contact Donna Kreiser at dkreiser@mcneeslaw.com

3. **Books**

    - *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* by Kevin DeYoung

    - *Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert* by Rosaria Champagne Butterfield

    - *Single, Gay, Christian: A Personal Journey of Faith and Sexual Identity* by Gregory Coles

4. **CBC's Position Paper on Human Sexuality**

    - Paper copies available at the Welcome Center
    - Will be posted this week on Realm