

## **A Biblical Response to Homosexuality**

### **Sexuality**

Sexuality is God given and is intended to be for God's glory and for our joy, within the covenant of marriage. However, the Bible is clear that all sex outside of marriage between one man and one woman is sin. Sex outside of marriage is spiritually destructive, because just like any other sin, it separates us from God, and places us under his wrath. It is physically destructive, because it can lead to sexually transmitted diseases that will stay with you for the rest of your life, and it is emotionally destructive.

#### **What is Homosexuality?**

Homosexuality refers to sinful orientation or behavior. The homosexual orientation, is when a person is sexually attracted to members of the same sex. Homosexual behavior refers to sexual activity between members of the same gender.

#### **What causes homosexuality?**

There has been a growing debate concerning whether or not people are born homosexuals or whether they become homosexuals. To date, there has been no concrete scientific evidence that someone is born a homosexual.

Most research indicates that male homosexuality is related to an absent or detached father and or over-involved and controlling mother. As a result, a boy identifies strongly with his mother, while at the same time, craves attention from his absent father. This attention is sought and found in another male.

Research also indicates that female homosexuality is related to an emotionally or physically absent mother. As a result, the girl identifies strongly with her father, and craves attention from her absent mother. This attention is sought and found in another female.

Other factors that contribute to homosexual behavior:

- Sexual abuse, which leads to distrust from the opposite sex
- Fear of the opposite sex
- Exposure to pornography
- Influence of peers
- Willful rebellion to God's design for sexuality

The fact of the matter is, even if there is scientific evidence that is discovered, which points to a homosexual gene, it would only prove what is already known -- that people are fallen beings, physically, emotionally, and spiritually imperfect. In other words, an inborn tendency towards a particular sin, in can in no way, justify that sin. It would only confirm the need of a Savior from sin: Jesus Christ.

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### **What Does the Bible Say About Homosexuality**

#### **1. God forbids homosexual activity.**

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. **Leviticus 18:22**

#### **2. God condemned Sodom and Gomorrah for their homosexuality. It is sin.**

Then the LORD said, 'Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.' **Genesis 18:20-21**

#### **3. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed on account of their unrepentant homosexuality.**

Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. **Genesis 19:24-25**

#### **4. The example of Sodom and Gomorrah is given as a warning for people of all ages. God holds homosexuals fully accountable for their sin.**

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. **2 Peter 2:4-10**

#### **5. God's wrath is revealed against all of the godlessness and wickedness of men, including homosexuality.**

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **Romans 1:18-21**

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### **6. Paul describes homosexuality as a wicked perversion of God's gift.**

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. **Romans 1:26-27**

### **7. The wicked, including homosexuals, will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

Or 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, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

### **8. There is hope for homosexuals. God forgives and cleanses persons of this sin if they repent of their sin and turn to Him in faith.**

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. **1 Corinthians 6:11**

### **How can I minister to a family member or friend who is practicing homosexuality?**

As Christians, we minister to all who are in sin, including homosexuality with healthy combination of compassion and conviction. To do anything less, is dishonoring to God, and unloving to the person who is engaged in homosexual sin, or any other sin.

**Compassion:** We should love them, with the love of God, showing them the compassion of Jesus to them. We should treat them with respect, because they too, just like all human beings were created in the image of God. They bear God's image, and are therefore worthy of our respect, and worthy of our compassion and love.

**Conviction:** In love, we must be clear that homosexuality is sin. If someone were running toward the edge of a cliff, and they didn't know that the cliff was ahead of them, but you did, wouldn't you do all that you could to stop them? In the same way, when we see anyone struggling with any sin, we lovingly tell them what God says about their sin. We point them to the sufficient life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the only one who can save us from our sins, including the sin of homosexuality.

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Writing to the church in Corinth, Paul wrote:

“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.” **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

Then Paul writes, in verse 11, “And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”  
**1 Corinthians 6:11**

Paul is clear that some of these Christians in Corinth had at one time been homosexuals, adulterers, drunkards, thieves, etc., before they came to faith in Jesus Christ. Remember compassion and conviction, when you are seeking to minister to anyone in sin.

### How can we help Christians who are struggling with homosexual desires?

If you know someone who is a Christian, but struggles with homosexual desires, then you must encourage them to remember who they are in Christ. That in Christ, they are a new creation, and that God will give them the strength, by the power of the Holy Spirit to fight those sinful desires.

We can also encourage Christians who struggle with homosexual desires to be careful how they define themselves. Pastor and author, John Piper has written,

“I would encourage them to be careful not to define themselves as "homosexual." Don't say, "I am gay," or "I am a homosexual." Say, rather, "I struggle with homosexual desires." That's a very small—and huge—distinction. There was a Christian brother in our church who had AIDS due to his history in the homosexual lifestyle. The Lord wonderfully saved him from that, and he taught me so many things over the 10 years or so that we were together. He, Joe, said to me: "Don't ever let any man tell you he is a homosexual. Always correct his vocabulary, because in Christ Jesus that is not who I am. In Christ Jesus I am a new creature.”

Read the entire article here:

[http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/TopicIndex/80\\_Homosexuality/2566\\_How\\_can\\_we\\_help\\_Christians\\_who\\_are\\_struggling\\_with\\_homosexual\\_desires/](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/TopicIndex/80_Homosexuality/2566_How_can_we_help_Christians_who_are_struggling_with_homosexual_desires/)

Wesley Hill, a Christian, who struggles with homosexual desires has recently written a helpful article entitled, “A Few Like You”: Will the Church be the Church for Homosexual Christians? You can access the article here:

<http://www.ransomfellowship.org/articledetail.asp?AID=506&B=Wesley%20Hill&TID=7>

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### Is the homosexual lifestyle worthy of minority status?

No, because homosexuality is not who someone is, but rather what someone does. At the end of the day, it is a personal choice. Randy Alcorn has written,

I have never met a former white, former black, or a former hispanic. I have, however, met a number of former homosexuals. Race and gender are what we are, not what we do. Race and gender are amoral, unchangeable and not subject to choice. In contrast, the homosexual lifestyle is immoral, and a matter of personal choice, not unalterable destiny.

Even if it could be proven that the homosexual orientation is inborn (some people are still desperately trying to prove this), *the choice of homosexual behavior is still just that — a choice*. An unmarried heterosexual is required by God not to engage in sexual activities. The same is true of the homosexual. To have desire toward something does not mean one is helpless to control his behavior...

To give minority or special status to women and hispanics is to endorse the legitimacy of being a woman or hispanic. And rightly so. To give special status or rights to those choosing the personally and socially destructive homosexual lifestyle is to approve and endorse that behavior, and inevitably to spread it. To do so is morally wrong. It is also the worst possible thing we can do for homosexuals, who need to hear about the way out of bondage, not be encouraged to plunge deeper into it.

See the entire article:

[http://www.epm.org/artman2/publish/homosexuality/  
Is\\_The\\_Homosexual\\_Lifestyle\\_Worthy\\_Of\\_Minority\\_Status.shtml](http://www.epm.org/artman2/publish/homosexuality/Is_The_Homosexual_Lifestyle_Worthy_Of_Minority_Status.shtml)

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### Are there Christian ministries who can help with this particular issue?

**Exodus International** P.O. Box 2121, San Rafael, CA 94912 [www.exodus-international.org](http://www.exodus-international.org)

**Metanoia Ministries** P.O. Box 33039, Seattle, WA 98133 [www.metanoiaonline.org](http://www.metanoiaonline.org)

**Outpost Ministries** P.O. Box 22429, Robinsdale, MN 55422 [www.outpostministries.org](http://www.outpostministries.org)

**Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation** [www.ccef.org](http://www.ccef.org)

## **A Biblical Response to Homosexuality**

### **A Lesbian Responds to Grace & Truth by Randy Alcorn**

Some churches today embrace truth, but need a heavy dose of grace.

Other churches talk about grace, but cry out for a heavy dose of truth.

I invited an outspoken lesbian activist, who was also a prominent abortion activist, to lunch. For the first hour, she hammered me, telling of all the Christians who'd mistreated her. She seemed hard as nails. I listened, trying to show her God's grace, praying she'd see the Jesus she desperately needed. She raised her voice and cursed freely. People stared. But that was OK. Jesus went to the cross for her—the least I could do was listen.

Suddenly she was crying, sobbing, broken. I reached across the table and took her hand. For the next two hours I heard her story, her heartsickness, her doubts about the causes she championed. I told her about Christ's grace.

After four hours we walked out of that restaurant, side by side. We hugged.

In our conversation, truth wasn't shared at the expense of grace, or grace at the expense of truth.

Birds need two wings to fly. With only one wing, they're grounded. The gospel flies with the wings of grace and truth. Not one, but both.

The apparent conflict between grace and truth isn't because they're incompatible, but because we lack perspective to resolve their paradox. The two are interdependent. We should never approach truth except in a spirit of grace, or grace except in a spirit of truth. Jesus wasn't 50% grace, 50% truth, but 100% grace, 100% truth.

Truth-oriented Christians love studying Scripture and theology. But sometimes they're quick to judge and slow to forgive. They're strong on truth, weak on grace.

Grace-oriented Christians love forgiveness and freedom. But sometimes they neglect biblical study and see moral standards as "legalism." They're strong on grace, weak on truth.

Countless mistakes in marriage, parenting, ministry and other relationships are failures to balance grace and truth. Sometimes we neglect both. Often we choose one over the other.

(Excerpt from *The Grace & Truth Paradox* by Randy Alcorn)

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*Postscript on the lesbian activist:* This woman was one of the most outspoken abortion and homosexual activists in our area. By God's grace, she came to faith in Christ. She now fellowships with the same Christians she used to despise. Her life has not been easy, but when I see her—the last time was when I did a book signing at Costco, to which she brought several family members—she hugs me and we talk about our Jesus. She is precious. I look forward to walking with her on God's New Earth. And I know there are countless others, as deserving as Hell and undeserving of grace as I, who will join us there.

We can love people without denying their sin. If we truly love them we will NOT deny their sin but help them find the remedy to their sin. We will stand next to them as fellow-sinners, and tell them Jesus died for us all. It's the old description of true evangelism: one beggar telling another beggar where to find food. They may or may not respond to Jesus. That's not up to us, and it's not a condition for whether we love them. But we can love them nonetheless and tell them what Jesus did for us, and help them however we can, and pray that one day they will embrace the One they long for, who Augustine called "the End of all our desires [Jesus]."

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### Other Resources

#### Videos

Mark Driscoll discusses homosexuality: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSGIPqXhofE>

Dr. Robert Gagnon, New Testament scholar and author has an excellent 28-minute video where he answered some common objections about homosexuality and the Bible. Here is the link: <http://theologica.blogspot.com/2008/11/robert-gagnon-on-homosexuality-and.html>

#### Books

Mohler, R Albert Jr. *Desire and Deceit: The Real Cost of the New Sexual Tolerance*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2008.

Piper, John and Justin Taylor, eds. *Sex and the Supremacy of Christ*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2005.

Welch, Edward T. *Homosexuality: Speaking the Truth in Love*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2000.

#### Questions?