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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Romans 1:18-32
Lesson #18
Homosexuality
02/12/2023

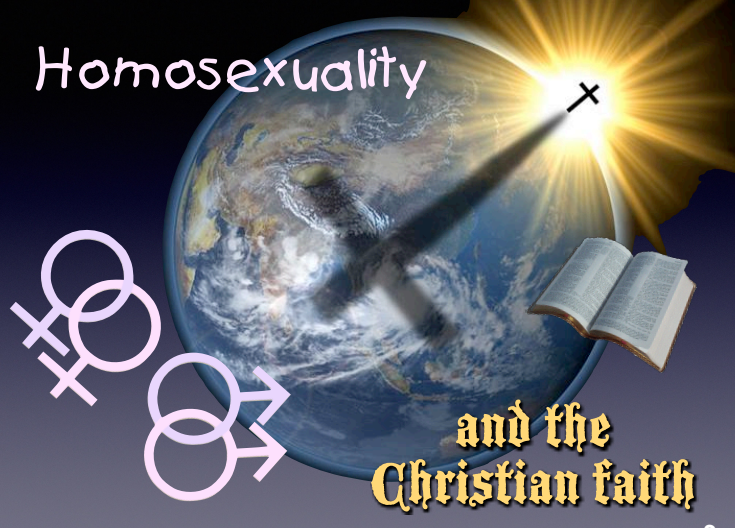
homosexuality
Abortion
Family values
Divorce
transgender
intimacy
female pornography
Complementarianism

egalitarianism gender roles
 Marriage
 Sexual ethics
 sin
 Adultery
 love
 lust
 fornication male



1


Homosexuality



**and the
Christian faith**


2

What is homosexuality?



(Biblical) culture

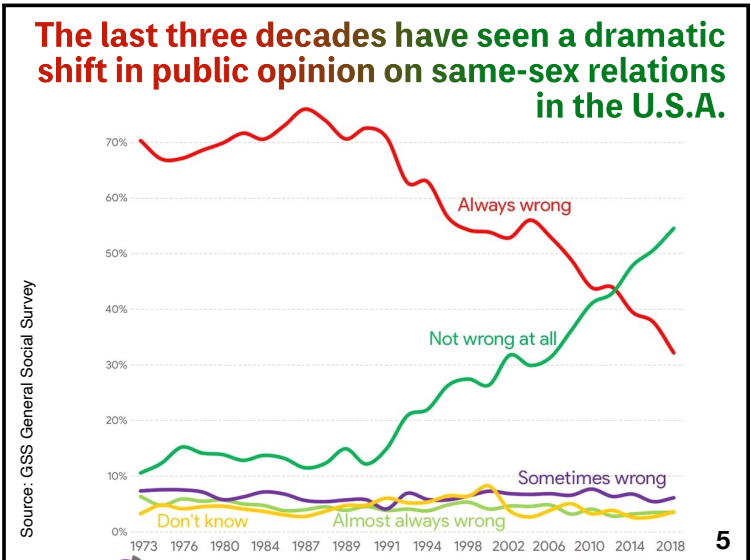
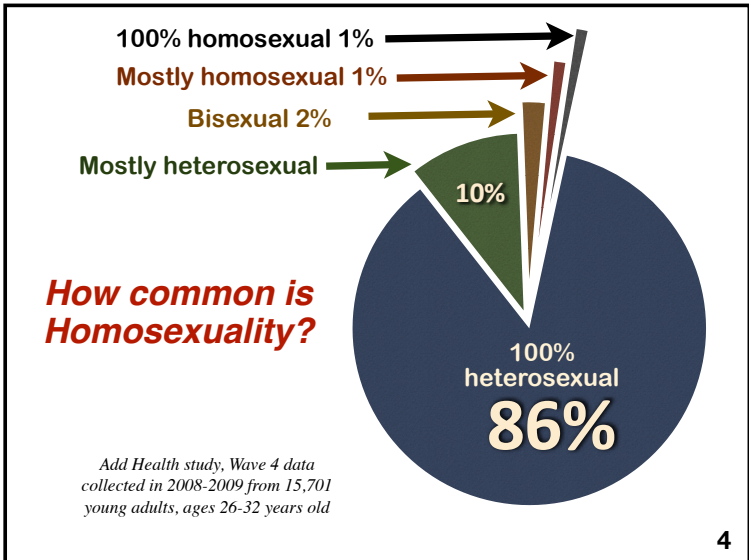
Sexual **acts** with members of the same gender.



(modern) culture

Sexual **attraction** to members of the same gender.

3



Observations



Many Christian
are confused

Gay activist's are
combative



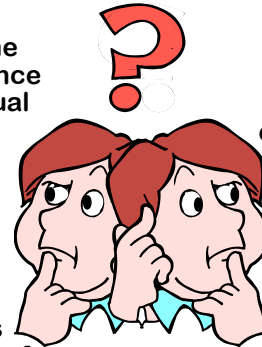
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Evangelical Christians are caught between two spiritual virtues

Grace
Sensitivity to the
heartfelt experience
of the homosexual
community



To ignore this
brings the label of
"holy homophobia."



Holiness
Sensitivity to
the traditional
understanding
of the Scripture



To ignore this
makes one a
Christian heretic.

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The stereotype evangelical Christian homophobia



"God hates you
and so do I!"

Holiness
Sensitivity to
the traditional
understanding
of the Scripture



To ignore this
makes one a
Christian heretic.

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Some uncomfortable questions

- Is not homosexuality **natural** for many people?
- **Jesus** never mentions homosexuality but does talk about loving relationships. Why not follow Jesus?
- Why do conservatives seem bent on **legislating** their personal morality on everyone else?
- Should not gay people enjoy the same civil **rights** (marriage) as anyone else?



- Why should a group that is so creative, peace loving, and productive be **rejected** just because of who they choose to love?

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The Old Testament speaks of six kinds of sexual sin.

- Seduction of a virgin (Exodus 22:16)
- Rape (Deut. 22:28)
- Adultery (Lev. 20:10; Deut. 22:22)
- Incest (Lev. 20:11, 12, 14; Deut. 27:27, 22, 23)
- Bestiality (Exodus 22:19; Lev. 18:23, 20:15-16)
- **Homosexuality** (Lev. 18:22, 20:13)

"You shall not lie with a male
as one lies with a female; it
is an abomination."

In modern Western culture only
homosexuality is excluded
from the "sin list".

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Homosexual acts are a moral issue in Scripture.



Old Testament

Law of Moses
Lev.18:22
Lev.20:13

Examples
Judges
19:22-30
Ezek.16:50

New Testament

Jesus is silent

Paul
Rom.1:18-28
1 Cor.6:9-11
1 Tim.1:8-10
Jude 3-23

Church history

Until the modern
era, the church
has consistently
condemned
homosexual acts.

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Romans 1

“18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness, . . . 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and **exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.** 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. 25 **For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator,** who is blessed forever. Amen. ”

- The “all”, “them”, “they” are the fallen human race.

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Romans 1

“26 For this reason God gave them over to **degrading passions**; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is **unnatural**, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing **indecent acts** and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. 28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a **depraved mind**, to do those things which are **not proper**,”

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1. The whole human race (not the homosexual) is the problem.

- The 1st century Jews sensed that Paul was talking only about **Gentiles** who were spiritual outlaws.
- The 21st century Christians sense that Paul was talking **only about gay people** who are spiritual rebels.
- Could it be that Paul is talking about the **human race** as it stands condemned before God?

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Rom.1:18-32 in context

- 1:19 “because that which is known about God is evident **among** them; for God made it evident to them.” **The “them” is the whole human race.**
- 2:15 “in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their **conscience** bearing witness and their **thoughts** alternately accusing or else defending them,” **The “conscience” “thought” should suggest that homosexuality is unnatural.**
- 3:23 “for **all have sinned and fall short** of the glory of God,”
- Homosexuality is a sign of God’s curse on the whole human race (not just the gay community).
- The 10th plague = the death of the first born sons among the Egyptians is a parallel (Ex.11:4,29).

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2. Homosexuality is not the norm.

Romans 1:26 “exchanged the natural function for that which is **unnatural**”

Ancient non Christian authors denounced homosexual acts

- Plato (300 BC) *Laws* 1.636C
- Philo (AD 40) *Special Laws* 3.37-39
- Josephus (AD 70) *Against Apion* 2.273-75
- Plutarch (AD 100) *Moralia, Dialogue on Love* 751.D-E

Is “natural” defined by what “feels” normal for me or by what is healthy given my created purpose?

There are many things that may “seem” natural to some

- pedophilia, promiscuity, polygamy, honor killing, hatred, revenge, racism, sexism, etc.

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- The life expectancy of a gay male in America is shortened by 20 years (without factoring in HIV).

*R. S. Hogg, S. A. Strathdee, et al.,
"Modeling the Impact of HIV Disease on Mortality in Gay and Bisexual Men,"
International Journal of Epidemiology, 26(3): 657-661, p. 659*

- Depression is 7 times more likely among male homosexuals and suicide is 6 times more likely as compared to the control group.

(Hallfors, D., Waller, M., Ford, C., Halpern, C., Brodish, P., Iritani, B., (2004) Adolescent Depression and Suicide Risk: Association with Sex and Drug Behavior. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 27(3), 224-231)

- 75% of general population believe homosexuality is unnatural but that homosexuals should have equal rights in the workplace.

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- 75% of male homosexuals have had sex with more than 100 partners,
- 43% with more than 500,
- 28% with more than 1,000
- 79% say that half of those partners are total strangers, and 70% of those sexual contacts are one night stands.

Bell AP, Weinberg ML. New York, N.Y.: Simon and Schuster;1978. *Homosexualities: a Study of Diversity among Men and Women.*

- 73% of all homosexuals have had sex with boys under 19 years of age.

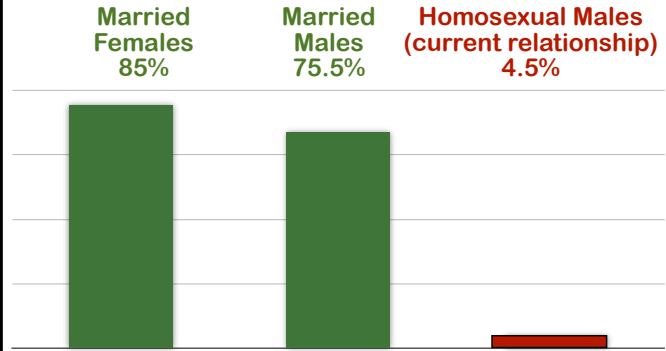
Jay and Young. *The Gay Report.* Summit Books, 1979, p. 275

- homosexual monogamy is rare (a distinction between emotional fidelity and sexual exclusivity is common)

Harold N Miller <http://members.aol.com/gaymatter/monog.htm>

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Percent reporting sexual fidelity



The Social Organization of Sexuality, 216; McWhirter and Mattison, *The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop* (1984): 252-253; Wiederman, "Extramarital Sex," 170.

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3. The burden of the FALL is not equally (justly) distributed.

Genesis 3:17

"Cursed is the **ground** because of you"

Romans 8:22-23

"For we know that the **whole creation** groans and suffers even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body."

Exodus 11-12

The last plague on Egypt was the "Death of the **firstborn son.**"

Galatians 6

"² Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. ⁵ For each one will **bear his own load.**"

Chemistry, Culture, Circumstances

LIFE IS NOT FAIR

- it does not deal the same "hand of cards" to each person.

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God's judgment on the earth because of Adam's sin affects everyone and everything including our sexuality.

While the primary cause is the same, secondary causes of homosexuality vary.



Nature

Some people may have a genetic predisposition to same sex attraction.



Choice

Homosexual acts are a choice stemming from spiritual decisions.



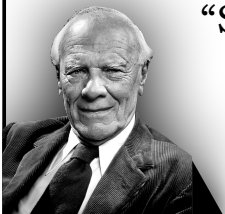
Nurture

Sexual orientation can be influenced by the home and culture.

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4. Sexual idolatry makes sexual freedom a "fight for life".

- Our sexuality is near the **core of our human identity** and therefore a special arena for displaying the condition of our soul.
- In our natural longing for fulfillment, life, and peace, sexual acts take on a **religious role.**



"Sex is the imitation or substitute religion of the 20th Century."

Malcolm Muggeridge

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✓ If this interpretation is sound we might expect:

- Homosexuality would be quite **common** across all cultures and eras.
- It should be widely recognized that something is **out of tune** (with humans) and even contrary to nature or a natural explanation.
- It is **insensitive** to condemn only the LGBT community for their SSA.
- SSA may not be a free moral **choice**, but actions are.

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5. Evangelicals are too quick to condemn and too slow to learn from homosexuality.

- We must see homosexuality as a **picture** of OUR need for redemption from our unnatural state as sinners.
- Death and homosexuality are God's **visual aids** to reveal the unnatural nature of our fallen condition and draw us in faith to the crucified and risen Christ.
- We must think twice before we condemn those who struggle with SSA, while we **refuse to see** our own unnatural state.

Implications of this view

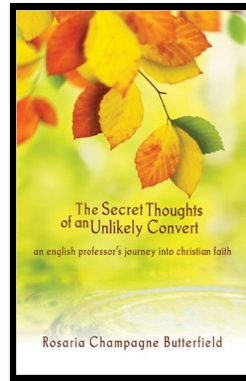
- The homosexual community **bears the burden** (for all of us) of God's curse on the fallen human race.
- The church needs to provide **compassion & support** for those who bear the sacrifice of that curse.
- **Civil rights** for homosexuals is to be treated the same as with the greedy, proud, divorced, etc.
- Christian discipleship demands that we discipline our sexual expressions, which will mean **self sacrifice (abstinence)** in various ways.
- When human sexuality becomes the **focus** of our hope for fullness of life and peace we will defend sexual freedom as we would our soul's life.

Her response to a reader who complained that a gay couple was moving in across the street and wanted to know what he could do to improve the quality of the neighborhood.



“You could move.”

Abigail Van Buren



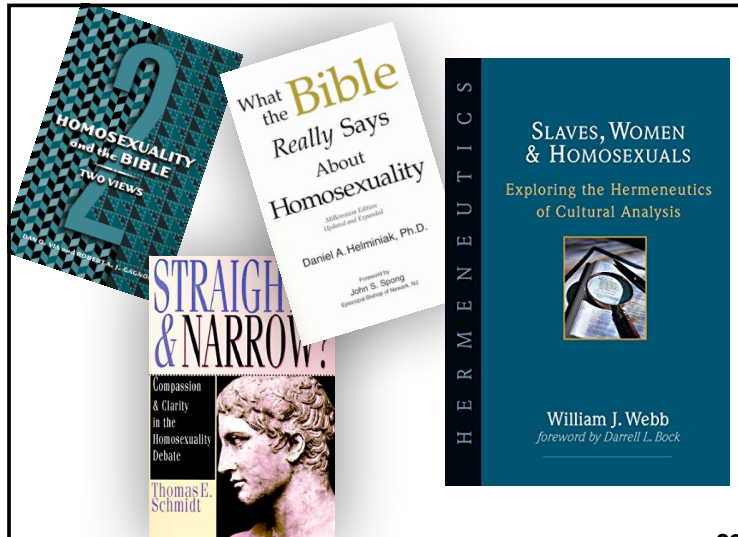
Dr. Rosaria Champagne Butterfield
lesbian,
former postmodern, feminist,
English professor

“The Scripture clearly asks disciples of Jesus to lose their old life in order to find their new life. I had to ask what have I given up to know him and myself?”



Matthew 10

“38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.”



A Berean's look at ...

