

A.

Sensing the dissonance

Evangelical Christians are torn between a desire to be sensitive and yet faithful as they try to address this issue in the public square.

B.

The whole human race is involved.

Homosexuality is a visual aid to the fallen human race and its unnatural condition of being separated from God.

C.

Seeing the bigger issue

The homosexual question reveals a sexual idolatry.

D.

Seeking the facts

Data about homosexuality is often ignored.

Matthew 10

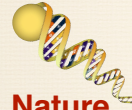
“38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.”

Christians should understand that the **secondary** signs of our brokenness vary, while the **primary** cause is the same.

Curse



God's judgment on the earth because of Eve's sin affects everything including our sexual orientation.



Nature

Some people may have a genetic predisposition to be homosexual.



Choice

Homosexual acts are a choice stemming from spiritual decisions.



Nurture

Sexual orientation is shaped by the home and culture.

E.

Speaking the truth in love

Christians must recognize the common story they share with all people including homosexuals.

1 Corinthians 13

“4 Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 **bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**”

Pietro Aretino

(poet 1550)

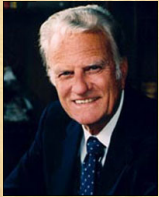


“I love you, and because I love you, I would sooner have you hate me for telling you the truth than adore me for telling you lies.”

1 Corinthians 5

“9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be **an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler** - not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges. *Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.*”

Billy Graham



"I think that the Bible teaches that homosexuality is sin, but the Bible also teaches that pride, jealousy, hatred, and evil thoughts are sins."

Application

- Separation does not apply to a pluralistic society.
- Separation does apply to the faith community.
- Does separation apply to the family?
- To what issues does this apply and why?

Romans 2

"³ And do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment upon those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴ **Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?**"

Galatians 6

"¹ Brethren, even if a man is caught (**trapped**) in any trespass, you who are **spiritual**, restore (**bring back**) such a one in a spirit of **gentleness**; each one **looking to yourself**, lest you too be tempted. ² **Bear one another's burdens**, and thus **fulfill the law of Christ.**"

Ephesians 4

"¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, **showing forbearance to one another in love**, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Application

- Time and patience are demanded in a healthy faith community.
- The unity of the faith community means that we share our burdens.
- Does patience apply to unconfessed sin as well as unresolved sin?
- Does God's patience provide a model for the church?

*Christians share a **common story** with everyone else.*

- We share **common failures** as broken people in a broken world.
- We share **common longings** with everyone for unconditional love and fullness of life.
- We share **common temptations** to find our life in the creature rather than the Creator.
- We share **common redemption** through the Cross of Christ and faith.
- We share **common callings** to bear one another's burdens and walk in a manner worthy of our calling.

Scriptural ethics are a guide to finding fullness of life and to avoid idolatry.

- Homosexuality is God's curse on a **rebellious society** - it is not the path to life.
- Homosexual acts are forbidden in Scripture because they are a **false hope** for fullness of life.
- We each have **different burdens to bear** because of the curse of the Fall.
- We expect to experience the joy of life by living **disciplined** lives no matter what our personal preferences.

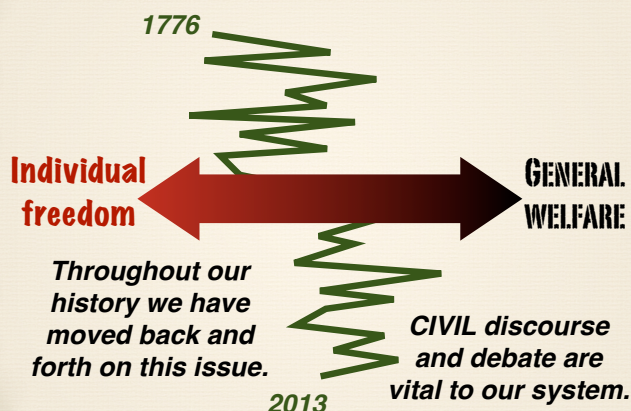
*Political responsibility
“**personal rights**” and the “**general welfare**.”*

- Human (including gay) **rights** of all citizens should be defended in a pluralistic society.
- **Special rights** including special favored treatment for homosexuals should be resisted.
- The interests of the “**common good**” of a society will dictate the discouragement of some behaviors including homosexual acts.
- Moral dialogue in a pluralistic society should be conducted with respect for the **common good and common ground**.

*Christians are called to be **tolerant**
- legally and socially but not ideologically.*

- Kingdom standards are **distinct** from public policy.
- **American pluralism** is defined by legal and social rights not personal or private ideology.
- No individual or culture is pluralistic at all levels - proscription of child sacrifice, racism, polygamy, honor killing, etc. reflect a **common ideology**.
- The gay community tends to **confuse and equate** ideological agreement with legal and social rights.

Competing values in the American vision



Pastoral responsibility

- We start by **sharing** our common story of our search for love and life.
- We understand Scripture, sexuality, and spirituality imperfectly and therefore are **learners** (disciples).
- When we share the Gospel's hope and the wisdom of the Word of God, we must **audit our own souls**.
- Sexual preferences of all types require **sacrifice, discipline, understanding**, and often **repentance**.
- The church is made up of dirty, rotten, sinners who are fully **justified by grace through faith**.

Homosexuals rights and wrongs.

Civil rights?

Civil rights
YES!
Special privileges
No!



Gay partnerships?

Civil contracts
YES!
Gay marriage
No!



Christian status?

Christian fellowship
YES!
Ordination of active gays
No!



- Only 25% of all homosexual relationships make it to 8 years.

Charles Q Lau, Journal of Marriage and Family, Vol.74, Issue 5, pp 973-88

Attitude / Behavior of young adults from lesbian-parented homes

- Same sex attraction is twice as likely,
- Identification as homosexual or bisexual is twice as likely,
- Considering a same-sex relationship is three times as likely,
- Have a same-sex relationship is six times as likely.

Fiona L. Tasker & Susan Golombok, Growing Up in a Lesbian Family: Effects on Child Development, (New York; The Guilford Press, 1997) P..107



JUNE 2013

The Gay Guide to Wedded Bliss

Research finds that same-sex unions are happier than heterosexual marriages. What can gay and lesbian couples teach straight ones about living in harmony?



“Unless you’re seeking more relational instability leading to divorce, greater infidelity, a greater chance of having your daughters be more sexually loose with people of either gender, or you just want to witness the death of your own married sex life, it would appear same-sex couples have little to teach us. *The Atlantic* and a very robust body of research demonstrates that the “Gay Guide to Wedded Bliss” is anything but.”

Glenn T. Stanton

What do Christian parents do when their adult daughter wants to marry a woman?

- Does the daughter know how the parents feel about sexual ethics and her choice?
- Does the daughter know how the parents feel about their unconditional love commitment to her?
- What is most important to consider - the moral good or a continued relationship?
- Would the response differ if we were living under the Old Covenant of Law rather than the New Covenant of Grace?
- What are the limits of forbearance, with a professing Christian?

