

“The Bible and the Gay Question” 9/16/18

Issue of Authority versus mankind’s opinion.

Perspicuity of Scripture- (clearness of Scripture); The church needs to present a consistent, loving, hopeful message with clarity to a confused world.

Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ); “Q”- unconventional sexuality
Gender Dysphoria- the condition of feeling one’s emotional and psychological identity as male or female to be opposite to one’s biological sex.

A. **Genesis 1:26- 28; 2:18-25**

(Male/Female; TWO; complementary to one another physiologically, emotionally, and socially- ie. Family)
No Polygamy, Bestiality, Homosexuality

B. **Genesis 6:17-22; 7:1-9; 8:16-22; 9:1-19**

(Bring PAIRS on the ark- Male and Female; be fruitful, multiply)

C. **Genesis 19:1-11; Jude 6-8; 2 Peter 2:4-10**

(Other sins of Sodom- Ezek 16:46-56, pride, greed, abominations)

D. **Leviticus 18:22; 20:13**

(Incestual laws, bestiality, homosexuality, other stipulations- Mosaic system is not authoritative on NT believers unless reaffirmed- see 2 Cor 3; Heb 7:11-18; 8:1-13; Gal 3:19; Eph 2:11-15; Matt 5:17-18)

E. **1 Samuel 20:16-17; 18:1; 23:18; 20:42**

(Covenantal Kinship language; Deut 13:6; Gen 44:30; Lev 19:18)

F. **Matthew 5:27-32; 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12**

(Jesus intensified or brought out original intention of God’s moral commands; Jesus uses word *porneias/pornos* which is a broad general word for *any* type of sexual immorality- male/female; TWO only)

G. **Romans 1:16-32**

(God’s wrath is already being given against mankind- all these SINS, not just homosexuality are evidence of debasement and corruption)

H. **1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:10**

(*pornos*- sexual immorality generally; *moichos*- adultery; *malakos*- passive males; *arsenokoites*- dominant males; incest, bestiality, etc.)

I. **Matthew 15:12-20; Mark 7:1-23**

(Matt 15:19- sexual immoralities plural; we all have struggles)

What is our response? **Matthew 11:19; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Matthew 4:4**

“The Bible and the Gay Question” Quotes

Economist.com “Why are So Many Girls Appearing in Gender Clinics?”

2009- 41% were females **2017**- 70% were females

87% came out after spending lots of time online or after cluster outbreaks of gender dysphoria.

Over 50% had previous mental health issues before coming out.

Result- Became more popular; had sense of validation and belonging, supported

Brian McLaren- “Frankly, many of us **don’t know** what we should think about homosexuality. We’ve heard all sides but no position has yet won our confidence so that we can say “it seems good to the Holy Spirit and us”... if we think that there may be a legitimate context for some homosexual relationships, **we know** that the biblical arguments are nuanced and multilayer’s, and the pastoral ramifications are staggeringly complex. **We aren’t sure** if or where lines are to be drawn, nor **do we know** how to enforce fairness whatever lines are drawn.”

Dale Martin (Yale NT professor)- “The best place to find criteria for talking about ethics and interpretation will be in Christian discourse itself, which includes scripture and tradition but not in a foundational sense. Any interpretation of scripture that hurts people, oppresses people, or destroys people cannot be the right interpretation, no matter how traditional, historical, or exegetically respectable.”

Luke Timothy Johnson- “I have little patience with efforts to make Scripture say something other than what it says, through appeals to linguistic or cultural subtleties. The exegetical situation is straightforward; we know what the text says. But what are we to do with what the text says?... I think it important to state clearly that we do, in fact, reject the straightforward commands of Scripture, and appeal instead to another authority when we declare that same-sex unions can be holy and good. And what exactly is that authority? We appeal explicitly to the weight of our own experience and the experience thousands of others have witnessed to, which tells us that to claim our sexual orientation is in fact to accept the way in which God has created us. By so doing, explicitly reject as well the premises of the scriptural statements condemning homosexuality- namely, that it is a vice freely chose, a symptom of human corruption, and disobedience to God’s created order.”

Tony Jones- “that gay persons are fully human persons and should be afforded all of the cultural and ecclesial benefits that I am... I now believe that LGBTQ can live lives in accord with biblical Christianity (at least much as any of us can!” and that their monogamy can and should be sanctioned and blessed by the church and state.”