

BUILDING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

The *Church* and Homosexuality

5 questions for the church:

- 1) Does this subject *really* matter?
- 2) Is there a “3rd way” we can consider?
- 3) Where do our beliefs (convictions) come from?
- 4) Are our convictions being effectively transmitted to our children?
- 5) Is our inconsistency and immorality wrecking our credibility on this (and other) subjects?

Why It Matters

1. _____ - The Divine design includes God's prescription (pre-Fall) for human thriving.

Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV)

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 2:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

Genesis 2:24 (ESV)

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

2. _____ - Marriage points to a bigger reality – the Gospel and how God relates to us.

Ephesians 5:25-32 (ESV)

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, **as Christ loved the church and gave himself up** for her, ²⁶ that he might **sanctify** her, having cleansed her by the **washing** of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might **present** the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just **as Christ does the church,** ³⁰ **because we are members of his body.** ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that **it refers to Christ and the church.**

3. _____ - Homosexuality mocks God, confuses our children, and corrupts our culture.

Romans 8:19-22 (ESV)

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

What's at Stake?

1. The moral argument for monogamous _____
2. The validity of Christian _____
3. The _____ of Scripture and the correct _____ of it
4. Gospel _____

Romans 1:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it **the righteousness of God is revealed** from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Romans 6:23 (ESV)

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Other concerns:

How Do I Respond?

3 guidelines:

- _____ faithful
- Saturated with _____
- _____ and _____

1) We must affirm the power of the Gospel to affect not only _____ but _____.

“Orientation” (biblically, “_____”) does not determine _____.

2 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV)

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (ESV)

⁹ 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, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 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.

2) _____ from sin, not _____ of sin is the only means to alleviate the _____ of sin (now) and the _____ of sin (later).

1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

Acts 3:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out ...

“The biblical witness is clear: Homosexuality is a grievous sin against God and is a direct rejection of God’s intention and command in creation. All sin is a matter of eternal consequence, and the only hope for any sinner is the redemption accomplished by Jesus Christ, who on the cross paid the price for our sin, serving as the

substitute for the redeemed. Our response to persons involved in homosexuality must be marked by genuine compassion. But a central task of genuine compassion is telling the truth, and the Bible reveals a true message we must convey. Those seeking to contort and subvert the Bible's message are not responding to homosexuals with compassion. To lie is never compassionate—and their lie leads unto death.”

- Al Mohler

EPILOGUE:

The Church and Homosexuality: Ten Commitments

Kevin DeYoung, *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?*, Appendix 3

Of the many complexities involving the church and homosexuality, one of the most difficult is how the former should speak of the latter. Even for those Christians who agree that homosexual practice is contrary to the will of God, there is little agreement on how we ought to speak about it being contrary to the will of God. Much of this disagreement exists because we have many different constituencies in mind when we broach the subject. There are various groups that may be listening when we speak about homosexuality, and the group we think we are addressing usually dictates how we speak.

If we are speaking to cultural elites who despise us and our beliefs, we want to be bold and courageous.

If we are speaking to strugglers who fight against same-sex attraction, we want to be patient and sympathetic.

If we are speaking to sufferers who have been mistreated by the church, we want to be winsome and humble.

If we are speaking to shaky Christians who seem ready to compromise the faith for society's approval, we want to be persuasive and persistent.

If we are speaking to those who are living as the Scriptures would not have them live, we want to be straightforward and earnest.

If we are speaking to belligerent Christians who hate or fear persons who identify as gay or lesbian, we want to be clear and corrective.

So how ought we to speak about homosexuality? Should we be defiant and defensive or gentle and entreating? Yes and yes. It depends on who is listening. All six scenarios above are real and not uncommon. And while some Christians may be called to speak to one group in particular, we must keep in mind that in this technological day and age anyone from any group may be listening in. This means that we will often be misunderstood. It also means we should make some broad basic commitments to each other and to our friends and foes in speaking about homosexuality. Here are ten commitments I hope Christians and churches will consider making in their heads and hearts, before God and before a watching world.

1. We will encourage our leaders to preach through the Bible verse-by-verse and chapter-by-chapter that they might teach the whole counsel of God (even the unpopular parts) and avoid riding hobby horses (even popular ones).
2. We will tell the truth about all sins, including homosexuality, but especially the sins most prevalent in our communities.
3. We will guard the truth of God's Word, protect God's people from error, and confront the world when it tries to press us into its mold.
4. We will call all people to faith in Christ as the only way to the Father and the only way to have eternal life.

5. We will speak to all people about the good news that Jesus died in our place and rose again so that we might be set free from the curse of the law, saved from the wrath of God, and welcomed into the holy city at the restoration of all things.
6. We will treat all Christians as new creations in Christ, reminding each other that our true identity is not based on sexuality or self-expression but on our union with Christ.
7. We will extend God's forgiveness to all those who come in brokenhearted repentance, everyone from homosexual sinners to heterosexual sinners, from the proud to the greedy, from the people pleaser to the self-righteous.
8. We will ask for forgiveness when we are rude or thoughtless or joke about those who experience same-sex attraction.
9. We will strive to be a community that welcomes all those who hate their sin and struggle against it, even when that struggle involves failures and setbacks.
10. We will seek to love all in our midst, regardless of their particular vices or virtues, by preaching the Bible, recognizing evidences of God's grace, pointing out behaviors that dishonor the Lord, taking church membership seriously, exercising church discipline, announcing the free offer of the gospel, striving for holiness together, practicing the "one anothers" of Christian discipleship, and exulting in Christ above all things.