



Topic: The Church and the LGBTQ+ Issue

Text: Romans 1:20-27

SS: As Bible Christians, we should follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ in dealing with sin and sinners.

Introduction:

Our topic today is a burning issue in contemporary social, political, and spiritual setting. This is not an exhaustive treatment of the matter but a primer for a Christian to ascertain where he/she stands on the issue.

Definition of terms:

Homosexual – a person who is attracted to someone of the same sex, male to male, and female to female

Lesbian – a female who is attracted to other females

Gay – a term used to describe men who are homosexual

Bisexual – means being attracted to both sexes, male to female and male; female to male and female

Transgender – a person whose gender is inconsistent with the practices and preferences of the gender to which a person has been born

Transexual – a person who has had his or her gender changed through surgical processes

Queer – deviating from what is expected or normal; another current self-description of homosexuals

I. The Case Against Homosexuality

Here we try to answer the position and arguments put forward by the LGBTQ community, both practitioners and supporters.

A. Agenda: the homosexuals want recognition, acceptability, and approval. Homosexuals want others in society to think like them (and behave like them?). They are working hard to change moral, social, and political opinion to be more in line with what they want. They are not content to be what they want to be. They want others to accept them. They want others' opinions to change and conform to their ideology and behavior.

Answer: Their agenda are unacceptable.

Recognizing that there is a small segment of society/population that considers itself As homosexual is in order, but acceptance, much more approval is another matter. Disapproving for them is equivalent to hating and they have incorporated this to their narrative. Right now they are using to the max their bully pulpit. Most Christians are

either silent or on the retreat.

- B. Animal kingdom: Homosexuality occurs in the animal world; therefore, it is natural.

Answer: Saying that homosexuality is natural because it occurs in the animal kingdom does not mean it is morally correct. Animals also eat each other alive, devour offspring, etc. Should we imitate those things as well because the animals do it? Of course not.

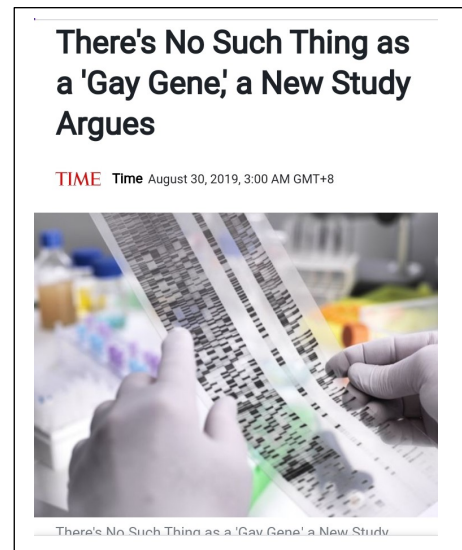
- C. Born as Homosexuals: If homosexuals are born that way, it would be natural to them.

Answer: There is no proof that homosexuals are born that way. Research is all over the place, and NO evidence has been shown that demonstrates they are born that way.

Exhibit A: A new study published in *Science*, thought to be the most comprehensive on the topic. After studying the DNA of 500,000 people with varying sexual experiences, the researchers found no evidence of a single "gay gene".
(TIME August 30, 2019)

If a behavior is said to be natural to a person and this is why homosexuality should be accepted, is it not also natural that people lie and so they, too, should be accepted? Children don't need to be taught how to lie; it appears to be natural to them. Should we then say that because the behavior of lying is natural to people, there should be special privileges for them and accept their behavior in society because that's just the way they're born and that is their truth-orientation?

Homosexuality being natural cannot pass even the evolutionary perspective. From an evolutionary perspective how does homosexuality further the development and distribution of the human species? It cannot. Homosexuality would obviously work for self-extermination. Therefore, how is it natural if what it leads to is self-destruction? It would seem that natural selection would have removed the "gene for homosexuality" since it would not lead to reproduction. It would seem, then, that homosexuality is not natural but is a learned behavior.



D. Freedom like anyone else

Answer: They are already free to marry a person of the opposite sex--the same as anyone else. They can still get married and express love, own businesses, own property, have sexual relations, receive an inheritance, etc.

Civil Rights

Homosexuals already have the same civil rights and restrictions as everyone else. They are able to hold jobs, marry people of the opposite sex, use the same bathrooms as anyone else, vote, etc. But, marriage is not a civil right. It is a privilege the same as the behavior of driving a car is a privilege, not a right. Homosexuals are using the civil rights movement to force their moral agenda on the rest of society . . . a moral agenda based on sexual behavior.

E. Same Sex Marriage. They should be allowed who they want to marry.

Answer: For homosexuals to advocate redefining marriage so it can include a union between a man and man and a woman and a woman and to have it protected legally is to want special rights for them due to their behavior. If behaviors are granted legal protection, then what about the behaviors of pedophilia, bestiality, polygamy? Should those behaviors also be given political protection?

Yes, they are free to love, hate, work, eat, etc. But they want marriage redefined to suit their behavior of same sex intercourse. Freedom requires responsibility. People are not free to rob banks, to murder, to steal, etc.

Simply saying they aren't free to marry who they want to isn't a good enough objection because . . .

A person is not free to marry another person who is already married.

A brother and sister are not free to marry each other.

A pedophile and his younger "partner" are not free to marry each other even if the younger person, say a 13-year old, wants to marry the older person.

A person is not free to marry an animal.

A person is not free to marry another person against that person's will.

Homosexuals say they should be able to marry who they love. But why is this true? What if a person wants to marry someone who is already married or is a child? Should that person be allowed to marry someone because it is an issue of love? Of course not. Love is not the measure of marriage validity. There are other issues, so to say that homosexuals should be able to marry whoever they love is a misrepresentation of the issue.

If freedom to marry whomever you want to is the litmus test for marriage, then

marriage will become meaningless as people redefine it to include those already married, siblings, children, animals, etc., as long as "love" is the defining characteristic.

Marriage has been defined for millennia as being between a man and a woman. Every society that I know of has defined it as between a man and a woman. So the homosexuals have now gained enough political power and social momentum to reconstruct the social and political norm to suit their preferences. They excuse their sexual preferences under the mask of "equal rights". But it isn't equal rights. It's special rights because they want the definition of marriage redefined for their special, particular preferences.

If we allow and promote homosexual marriage, then shouldn't we also allow and promote polygamy, polyandry, brothers and sisters getting married, pedophiliacs marrying children, and adults marrying animals? If not, why not?

F. Homosexuals are not harming anyone.

Answer: Health, is homosexuality harmful to society? The statistics say yes. Why then is it protected and promoted by government? 28% of homosexual men had more than 1000 partners, 43% more than 500, 83% more than 50. 79% of homosexual men say over half of sex partners are strangers, (Bell and Weinberg p 308-309.

(exodusglobalalliance.org/ishomosexualityhealthyp60.php). In 2008, over 1.1 million in U.S. were infected with HIV

(cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/basic.htm#exposure). 19% of MSM [men sex with men] are infected with HIV; 44% unaware they are infected, (Center for Disease Control, cdc.gov/hiv/topics/msm/index.htm). Worldwide, 1% infected with HIV: "Worldwide, approximately one in every 100 adults aged 15 to 49 is HIV-infected," (The Body, thebody.com/content/art6580.html). MSM is 4% of population yet has HIV 44 time the rate of other men, (cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/fastfacts-msm-final508comp.pdf)

Philippine data/statistics...

G. Homosexuals are many.

Answer: Population percentages.

"Based on the 2013 NHIS data, 96.6% of adults identified as straight, 1.6% identified as gay lesbian, and 0.7% identified as bisexual. The remaining 1.1% of adults identified as 'something else,' stated 'I don't know the answer,' or refused to provide an answer." (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr077.pdf>).

Those statistics approximate the Philippines current situation.

(for extended treatment, go to CARM.org)

II. The Biblical Perspective on Homosexuality Romans 1:21-27

Bible-believing Christians must stand on biblical truths or else we'll just be like those who are afloat and are being carried by the waves and whims of current sentiments.

- A. Homosexuality is an expression of man's rebellion against God's order of things.

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

It is perplexing that there are professing Christians who have rejected this very basic biblical truth by approving of homosexuality.
All violations of this truth are met with God's punishment in both the Old and New Testaments.

- B. Homosexuality is a result of idolatry, exalting the creatures over the creator. The primary sin is idolatry; homosexuality is an expression of homosexuality.

Romans 1:21-24, 26-27

"Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another."

"...women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way men also abandoned natural relations with women...men committed shameful acts with other men..."

The Bible put it in the clearest way possible. The God of the Bible opposes, does not condone, punishes the sin of homosexuality.

III. The Church's Response to the Issue of Homosexuality + Our response, as Bible Christians, must be based on the modeling of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. What would Jesus Do with regards to those in the LGBTQ community?

+ Would he distance himself from them? Would he refuse to interact with them? Would he look at them as a lost cause and move on? Would he protest gay pride parade? Would he hold signs with condemning slogans scrawled across them? Would he reject them?

+ In the Gospels, we see Jesus dining with “sinners and tax collectors”. This was incredibly counter-cultural. Instead of acting like the religious folks of his day, He chose to dine with “those people.” This unexpected action shocked and angered the religious class. But Jesus rightfully stated, *“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”* (Mark 2:17)

+ But Jesus never compromised the truth. He stated, “Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. (Luke 13:3)

+ “Go and sin no more” (to the blind man and the prostitute)

1. Loving the sinner but hating the sin. (John 3:16,17)
2. Patiently deal with them (2 Peter 3:9)

B. What should we do?

1. We should not be homophobic, we should love them by praying for them by name, praying for those we personally know.
It is so easy to judge homosexuals. It is so easy to argue with them. Prayer softens our hearts to be compassionate and prayer softens their hearts too to be receptive.

“It is the Holy Spirit’s job to convict, God’s job to judge, and my job to love.” – Billy Graham

2. We should provide an environment where Bible truths about this issue are taught in a loving way.
3. We should provide support for those who want to follow the Lord through teaching, counseling and fellowship.

An Illustration:

Hope Atuel is an executive and a sought-after speaker on leadership in California. She is a Bible-Christian and a leader in her church. But for 20 long years, she was active in the homosexual lifestyle. We praise the Lord that God’s grace reached her and she had turned her back on homosexuality.

She said, “Most of us struggle with showing love to the LGBTQ community for fear of being misinterpreted as “supporting” their choice of lifestyle. I always look at how Jesus went out of his way to “hang out” with the outcasts of society (tax collectors, prostitutes, lepers, etc.) to show them love. He ate with them and spent time with them, yet never compromised on the fact that



they needed to be transformed.”

“How do we apply the same love to the LGBTQ community?

I think that listening/hearing what they have to say – their struggles, impetus for their choice of lifestyle, etc is a way to

Show love. They even struggle with themselves and that could be a way to point the fact that God put his image in our hearts and when that image is distorted – there’s an unsettling feeling that we contend with.”

Challenge:

“Love and truth must be maintained in perfect balance. Truth is never to be abandoned in the name of love. But love is not to be deposed in the name of truth. Truth without love has no decency; it’s just brutality. On the other hand, love without truth has no character; it’s just hypocrisy.” (John MacArthur)

In this burning issue of homosexuality and same sex marriage, let us always remind ourselves that *as Bible Christians, we should follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ in dealing with sin and sinners.* We don’t condone sin, and we don’t despise the sinner.

