

Homosexuality and Same-Sex Attraction Various Scriptures

Introduction

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 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 2:24-25

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Male identity and female identity with their corresponding biological functions are created by God for humanity's good.

We do not self-create who we are nor can we choose an identity contrary to what God created us to be. Every cell of a male or female body carries its unchangeable identity.

In keeping with genetic identity, the distinctive physical characteristics of male and female bodies reveal their created function. To imagine them to be or use them in a way contrary to God's design is inherently harmful—a rejection of God's clearly revealed will and of one's own blessed identity.

Romans 1:21-27

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and

were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Honor—to value; dishonor—to devalue

Natural—phusikos; according to nature or instinct

Consumed—to burn

Passion—desire

Shameless—shameful, disgraceful, obscene

Sexual immorality springs from the desires of the human heart. To pursue and practice it reveals our prideful rebellion against the Creator who deserves worship and submission. Ironically, in the process of trying to satisfy our physical desires, we actually dishonor the human body. Homosexuality, male or female, expresses dishonorable passions and is contrary to nature.

Note: this is not the endpoint of Romans 1. There is a catalog of sins beyond this, the wages of which is death. But Romans will go on to teach—but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jude 1:7

Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural

desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

Natural—unnatural

Contrary to the created order.

The physical body reflects God's purposeful design. The design for man and woman to complete one another is reflected in their physical distinctiveness and in the function of their body parts.

Their one-flesh loving union was to produce life. Fill the earth with same-sex unions, and the human race will die out. It is foolish and unnatural to exchange the place created to receive and grow life for the place designed to collect and expel waste.

There has been an attempt by those trying to make homosexuality acceptable practice even among professing Christians to redefine Sodom's sin.

Genesis 19:4-5

⁴ But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. ⁵ And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them."

Ezekiel 16:49-50

49 Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. **50** They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.

Pride, indulgence, indifference to poor and needy—Sodom’s sins were many, as are any civilizations, and homosexuality was one of them. Ezekiel does not ignore it. Abomination—term connected to the idolatrous practices

Leviticus 18:24-25

22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. **23** And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion. (confusion, contamination)

Besides homosexuality (an abomination) and bestiality here, the chapter also deals with other sexual sins, such as incest, adultery, and child sacrifice to the god of lust, Molech. All of these mar and distort God’s good gift of human sexuality to be enjoyed within the sacred protection of the marriage covenant, making a suitable safe place for children to be reared.

6 None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the LORD.

20 And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her. **21** You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

So is there any hope for those who have fallen into these sins or who are enslaved by them?

Yes! The whole Bible is about the good news of rescue from God: creation, fall, redemption is the plot line. And there are examples of people Old Testament and New that God rescued from these very sins for which He brought whole nations under judgment.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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.

“Men who practice homosexuality”
malakoi—soft, weak—men who allow themselves to be used sexually
arsenokoitai—male+bedchamber (euphemism for sexual intercourse); same term the Septuagint version of Leviticus 18:22 uses for practicing homosexuality

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Some try to justify homosexuality despite what these Scriptures say:

Allege, it is sin only if you are by nature a heterosexual. (making homosexuality contrary to your own personal nature)

Or, it is sin only if you sell yourself to engage in it.

Or, it is sin only if you engage in it without self-control, that is in an unloving, irresponsible way (not monogamous)

Or, it is sin only if practiced in worship of an idol.

Can we make the same arguments for “sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, swindlers”?

The reality is that *every sin we commit rises from our nature. We are sinners by birth and*

by choice. Our hope is not found in denying our sinfulness, but in confessing it (say the same thing about it as God does), and seeking forgiveness and rescue through Jesus.

Same-Sex Attraction?

With the relentless cultural pressure around us, this has become a more and more common difficulty for believers. There is a common view in our day that if you have gifting in the arts and thus have sensitivity to music, art, and design; or if you have a gentle, mild, and nurturing spirit—you must be gay and should admit you are wired for same-sex relationships.

It's just not true. It stereotypes masculinity and femininity.

Is SSA sinful?

Yes, if we are talking about sexual desire, just as it is sinful for any desire contrary to God's law. We all must fight sin at the level of desire through the power of the Holy Spirit.

James 1:14-15

¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Matthew 5:27-28

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' **28** But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 15:19-20

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. **20** These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."

But what about same-sex attraction that has not moved into full-blown desire?

At the very least, we can say from Scripture that it is contrary to the created order—it is not what God created you to be. Be who you are. Who you are is what God made you, not who you think yourself to be.

2 Corinthians 10:5

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

How do we show love to those who struggle in this area, or who have fallen to it?

How do we respond to anyone who has fallen to a sin?

Unbeliever—the gospel

Believer—the gospel

Galatians 6:1-3 (see 1-10)

¹ Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Our brothers and sisters struggle with all kinds of sins, as do you and I. What kind of help do we need? We need fellow believers who will come alongside us and help us in the battle. Safe enough for us to share what our real needs are without being shamed. Steadfast enough not to give up on us. Honest enough not to let us continue in our sin as if it doesn't matter if it takes us down.

1 Corinthians 13:6

[Love] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

Galatians 5:13-14

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

It is not loving to pretend like a sin doesn't exist or that it's not doing damage to the person entrapped by it. It's not loving to redefine it. It's hateful to encourage pursuing it, because by its very nature, sin does harm.

Christ loved us enough not to condone our sin, but to die for us to free us from it.

How are we to deal with one another's sins? Church Covenant: We will not hide sin, but we will deal with one another's sins with forbearance and forgiveness.

Sins contrary to the gospel—church discipline process (Matthew 18:15-20)

1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 11-13

¹ It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. ² And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. ³ For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵ you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? **13** God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

This is a case of unrepentant flagrant sin. Whenever there is repentance, we receive that person back into the fellowship. To do otherwise would be just as contrary to the gospel as pretending like living contrary to the gospel is no problem.

Helpful Resources

Christopher Yuan. *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel*.

(YouTube—Christopher Yuan testimony, Cedarville University, 37:43 minutes)

Rosaria Butterfield. *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*.

Kevin DeYoung. *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality*.

Denny Burk and Heath Lambert. *Transforming Homosexuality: What the Bible Says about Sexual Orientation and Change.*

Peter Hubbard. *Love into Light: The Gospel, the Homosexual, and the Church.*