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The Bible &
homosexuality



Is homosexual activity a sin that must be repented of, forsaken, and forgiven, or, given the right context and commitment, can we consider same-sex sexual intimacy a blessing worth celebrating and solemnizing?

- Kevin DeYoung

I'm a pastor



Why?



convinced
contentious
comfortable
confused



*What does the Bible teach
about everything?*



KEVIN DEYOUNG

What Does the Bible Really Teach About
Homosexuality?

6

passages





Genesis 2:15-25



In Genesis 1 you see pairs of different but complementary things made to work together: heaven and earth, sea and land, even God and humanity. It is part of the brilliance of God's creation that diverse, unlike things are made to unite and create dynamic wholes which generate more and more life and beauty through their relationships. That

means that male and female have unique, non-interchangeable glories – they each see and do things that the other cannot. Sex was created by God to be a way to mingle these strengths and glories within a life-long covenant of marriage. Marriage is the most intense (though not the only) place where this reunion of male and female takes

place in human life. Male and female reshape, learn from, and work together. Therefore, in one of the great ironies of late modern times, when we celebrate diversity in so many other cultural sectors, we have truncated the ultimate unity-in-diversity: inter-gendered marriage.

- Tim Keller

Genesis 19



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.

Leviticus 18:22; 20:13



Matthew 5:17-18

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

Romans 1:18-27



3 exchanges

glory. truth. sexual.



1 Corinthians 6:9-10



1 Timothy 1:8-11



6

objections



*If I'm not hurting anyone,
what's the problem?*



*Jesus never mentions
homosexuality*



Mark 10:6-9

But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Mark 7:20-23

And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The Bible talks about bestiality even less than it talks about homosexuality, but that doesn't make bestiality an insignificant issue – or incest or child abuse or fifty other sins the Bible barely addresses. Counting up the number of verses on any particular topic is not the best way to determine the seriousness of the sin involved.

- Kevin DeYoung

*Paul was talking about a
different kind of homosexuality*



I believe that Paul used the word
“exchanged” to indicate that people knew
the natural sexual order of the universe and
left it behind. . . . I see Paul as condemning all
forms of homoeroticism as the unnatural acts
of people who had turned away from God.

- Bernadette Brooten

As a classicist, I have to say that when I read Plato's *Symposium*, or when I read the accounts from the early Roman empire of the practice of homosexuality, then it seems to me they knew just as much about it as we do. In particular, a point which is often missed, they knew a great deal about what people today would regard as longer-term, reasonably stable relations between two

people of the same gender. This is not a modern invention, it's already there in Plato. The idea that in Paul's day it was always a matter of exploitation of younger men by older men or whatever . . . of course there was plenty of that then, as there is today, but it was by no means the only thing. They knew about the whole range of options there.

- N.T. Wright

Who are you to judge?

or

What about divorce & gluttony?



So yes, there are plank-eyed Christians among us. The evangelical church, in many places, gave up and caved in on divorce and remarriage. But the remedy to this negligence is not more negligence. The slow, painful cure is more biblical exposition, more active pastoral care, more consistent discipline, more Word-saturated counseling,

and more prayer— for illegitimate divorce, for same-sex behavior, and for all the other sins that are more easily condoned than confronted.

- Kevin DeYoung

*The church is supposed to be
for broken people.*



[Cheap grace is] the grace which amounts to the justification of sin without the justification of the repentant sinner who departs from sin and from whom sin departs. Cheap grace is not the kind of forgiveness of sin which frees us from the toils of sin. Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without

requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*It's not fair. God wouldn't want
me to be miserable.*



Singleness— and that will be the path of obedience for many who experience same-sex attraction— does not mean you must live alone, die alone, never hold a hand, never have a hug, and never know the touch of another human being. If we ask the single Christian to be chaste, we can only ask them to carry that cross in community.

If God sets the lonely in families, so should we (Ps. 68: 6 NIV). There is no reason the dire scenes painted by the revisionist side must be realized. With openness about the struggle and openness toward the struggler, those Christians in our midst who experience same-sex attraction need not be friendless, helpless, and hopeless.

But, of course, none of this can be possible without uprooting the idolatry of the nuclear family, which holds sway in many conservative churches. The trajectory of the New Testament is to relativize the importance of marriage and biological kinship. A spouse and a minivan full of kids on the way to Disney World is a sweet gift and a terrible god.

If everything in Christian community revolves around being married with children, we should not be surprised when singleness sounds like a death sentence. If that's the church's challenge, what's needed in the wider culture is a deep demythologizing of sex. Nothing in the Bible encourages us to give sex the exalted status it has in our

culture, as if finding our purpose, our identity, and our fulfillment all rest on what we can or cannot do with our private parts. Jesus is the fullest example of what it means to be human, and he never had sex. How did we come to think that the most intense emotional attachments and the most fulfilling aspects of life can only be expressed with sexual intimacy?

1

thing needed



2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Gospel Identity



1 Corinthians 6:11

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.

*How should the
church respond?*



John 8



1. Move toward people
2. Defend the imago dei
3. Herald grace
4. Offer a truer, richer community
5. Remember behavior follows a changed heart



Q & A



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