

GENESIS 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male (*zachar*) and female (*neqêvah*) he created them.

IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

<u>MALE:</u>	<u>FEMALE:</u>
זָכָר (Hebrew <i>zachar</i>) = Male, with an emphasis on the biological sex.	נְקֵבָה (Hebrew <i>neqêvah</i>) = Female, from the verb to pierce or bore a hole in.
ἄρσεν (Greek <i>arsen</i>) = Male, with a strong emphasis on the biological sex.	θήλυς (Greek <i>thelus</i>) = Female, from the verb to nurse, or suckle.

THE ORIGINAL COMMISSION

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:28

MARRIAGE (GENESIS 2:18-24)

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" . . . But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man . . .

MARRIAGE (GENESIS 2:18-24)

. . . The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.


Genesis 2:18, 20-24

GENESIS 1-2

1. Men and women were created for a purpose.
2. Not good for man to be alone.
3. Ezer (Helper / Completer)

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

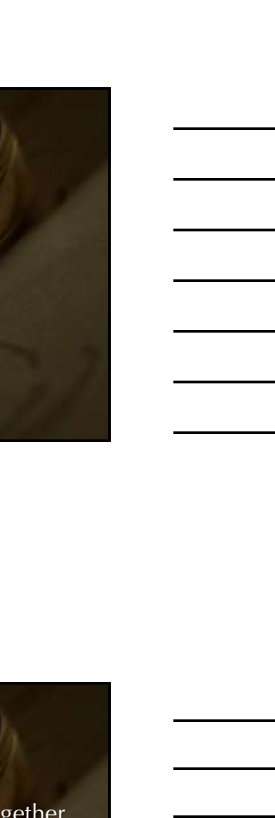
1. Man and woman
2. Husband and wife
3. Father and mother



WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

Marriage exists to bring a man and woman together as husband and wife to be father and mother to any children their union produces.

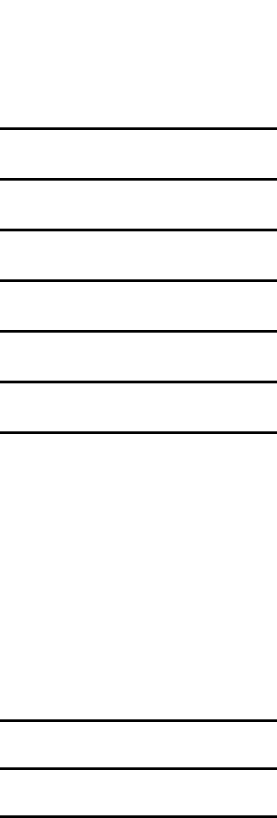
Ryan Anderson, The Heritage Foundation



JESUS AND MARRIAGE

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Matthew 19:3-6



GENESIS 3: THE FALL

Five Separations at the Fall:

1. Man is separated from God (Spiritual).
2. Man is separated from himself (Psychological).
3. Man is separated from man (Social).
4. Man is separated from nature (Physical).
5. Nature is separated from nature (Natural).

METANARRATIVE

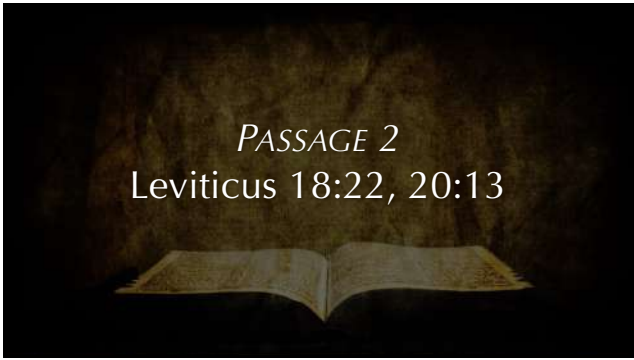
	Creation	Fall	Redemption	Recreation
BIBLICAL	All people are created in God's image.	All people are broken and disoriented from God, themselves, others, and nature.	People are new creations in Christ with a new identity as children of God.	Hope in full restoration with a new body.
NON-BIBLICAL	Not everyone is like me.	My brokenness and sin is unique	I am defined by my sin.	It is not possible to change.

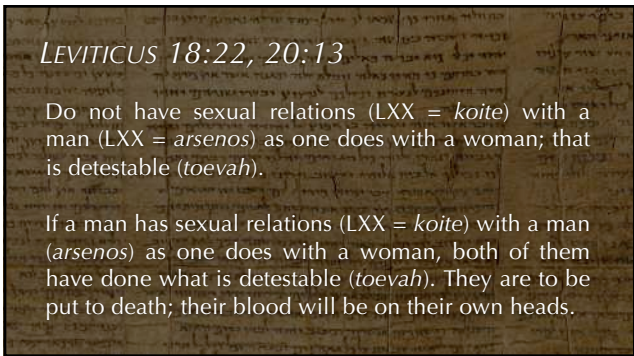
TRADITIONAL

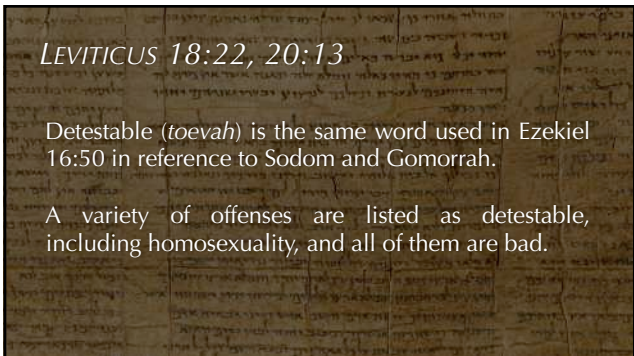
1. Genesis 1-2 does not make sense without gender complementarity.
2. Eve's gender difference is what made her a helper / completer.
3. Focus is on "one flesh" that is both covenant relationship and procreative.

GAY-AFFIRMING

1. Genesis 1-2 does not focus on gender differences but on similarities as humans.
2. Adam's and Eve's sameness made them partners.
3. Focus is on "one flesh" in a covenant relationship only.







<p style="text-align: center;"><i>TRADITIONAL</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leviticus 18 and 20 are clear prohibitions against homosexuality. 2. Motivation and intent are not considered. 3. Jesus upheld and clarified the moral restrictions placed on the people of God. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>GAY-AFFIRMING</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leviticus 18 and 20 are referring to exploitative same-sex acts (patriarchy). 2. Because the prohibitions refer only to exploitative acts, non-exploitive same sex acts are not in view. 3. Because of Christ, Christians are no longer held to the prohibitions.
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WHAT IS SEXUAL ORIENTATION?

Sexual orientation refers to an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic and/or sexual attractions to men, women or both sexes. Sexual orientation also refers to a person's sense of identity based on those attractions, related behaviors and membership in a community of others who share those attractions.

American Psychological Association

WHAT IS SEXUAL ORIENTATION?

"The modern notion of sexual orientation is, as a matter of fact, exceedingly modern. It is also a concept without any definitive meaning. Effectively, it is used now both culturally and morally to argue about sexual attraction and desire. As a matter of fact, attraction and desire are the only indicators upon which the modern notion of sexual orientation are premised."

Al Mohler, Jr., "God, the Gospel and the Gay Challenge"

CAN SEXUAL ORIENTATION CHANGE?

The general picture that emerges from our analyses of these data is that, on average, this population has experienced significant change away from homosexual orientation and toward heterosexual orientation . . . The most surprising single finding, and one that is replicated over several different measures, is that the population most likely on average to manifest significant change is the "Truly Gay" population . . . Common sense and dominant clinical professional opinion would clearly predict that these would be the research subjects least likely to report fundamental change, and yet consistently it was this group that reported the greatest degree of change.

Stanton Jones and Mark Yarhouse
Ex-Gays? A Longitudinal Study of Religiously Mediated Change in Sexual Orientation

NT THEOLOGY OF DESIRE (ORIENTATION)

1. The World: 1 Jn 2:15-19; Col 2:8; Gal 4:3; Jam 4:4.
2. The Enemy: Jn 8:44; Eph 6:12; 1 Pet 5:8; 1 Cor 7:5.
3. The Flesh: Rom 8:5-8; Gal 5:19-21, 6:8; Eph 4:22; Jam 4:1-2; 1 Pet 2:11; 2 Pet 1:4.

"The Flesh" refers to natural human abilities that are either ruled by obsessive desires (*ἐπιθυμία* / *epithumia*) or by a will that is controlled by the Spirit.

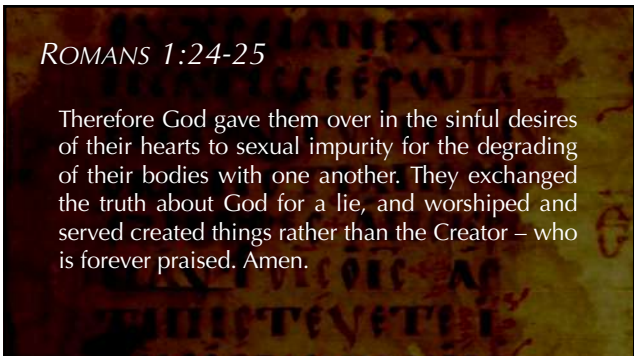
ἐπιθυμία / *Epithumia*

"Desire is the impulse toward possession or experience of its object. Desire 'locks on.' It cares for nothing else but its own satisfaction. 'I want what I want when I want it,' the song says. Of course anyone caught in the grip of [desire] is already in real trouble. They will sacrifice *what is good*, for themselves and others, to get *what they want*."

Dallas Willard
"Spiritual Formation and the Warfare Between the Flesh and the Human Spirit"







ON IDOLATRY

"Paul's condemnation of homosexual activity does not rest upon an assumption that it is freely chosen; indeed, it is precisely characteristic of Paul to regard 'sin' as a condition of human existence, an condition which robs us of free volition and drives us to disobedient actions which, though involuntary, are nonetheless culpable. That is what it means to live 'in the flesh' in a fallen creation. The gulf is wide between Paul's viewpoint and the modern habit of assigning culpability only for actions assumed to be under free control of the agent."

Richard B. Hays
"Relations Natural and Unnatural" in *The Journal of Religious Ethics*

ON IDOLATRY

On Paul's view, people are not homosexual primarily because they love idolatry. People are idolaters because of their natural disorientation away from God. Same-sex desires and acts are simply one expression of this disorientation.

ROMANS 1:26-27

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

BACK TO CREATION

Genesis 1-2 Terms Used in Romans 1:24-27:

1. Creator
2. Creation
3. Image
4. Male (*arsenos*, Gen 1:27 LXX)
5. Female (*thelus*, Gen 1:27 LXX)

THE SHOCK

Romans 1:26: Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.

The fact that women are mentioned first both 1) rules out pederasty and 2) serves to reinforce the shocking nature of same-sex acts, which would have been strongly condemned by the Greco-Roman culture.

RECIPROCITY

Romans 1:27: In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another (*ἀλλήλους* = of the same kind). Men committed shameful acts with other men (*ἄρσενες ἐν ἄρσεσιν* = men in men).

"MEN IN MEN"

"For Paul, homosexual activity may be the exaltation of the individual to the level of worship because homosexual sex is sex with another person of the same kind. Sexual relations outside the bonds of marriage often, if not usually, involve a worship of the creature above the Creator. In the least, such relationships are not seeing God as the Creator, as the only one who is due all the affection and devotion that one can muster . . .

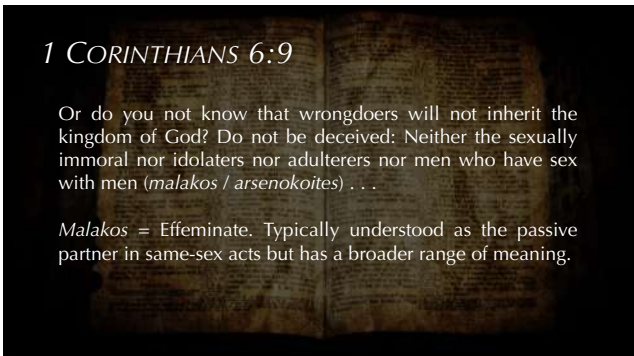
"MEN IN MEN"

" . . . But when such sexual relationships are homosexual, the body parts are the same for both individuals. The mystery is gone. One, in essence, 'gets off' on himself – or as close to it as he can. For Paul, then, anyone who commits homosexual acts is, by the very act itself, worshiping himself. This is the worst kind of idolatry."

Daniel B. Wallace, "Exegesis of Romans" Class Notes

<p><i>TRADITIONAL</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Same-sex acts in Romans 1 are the result of disorientation away from God. 2. "Nature" refers to the created order (Gen 1-2). Sexual orientation is not in view. 3. As a faithful Jew, Paul upheld the OT prohibition against same-sex acts. 	<p><i>GAY-AFFIRMING</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Same-sex acts in Romans 1 are the result of insatiable sexual desire. 2. "Nature" refers to one's sexual orientation. 3. Because the Romans lived in a patriarchal society, this would be viewed as a condemnation against gender roles.
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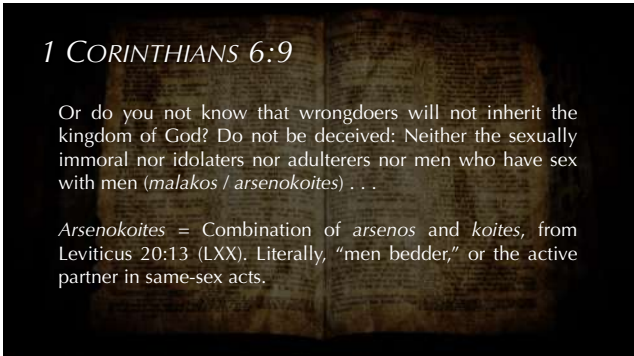




1 CORINTHIANS 6:9

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men (*malakos / arsenokoites*) . . .

Malakos = Effeminate. Typically understood as the passive partner in same-sex acts but has a broader range of meaning.



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Arsenokoites = Combination of *arsenos* and *koites*, from Leviticus 20:13 (LXX). Literally, "men bedder," or the active partner in same-sex acts.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>TRADITIONAL</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The text uses two words, both the passive and active partners in a same-sex act. 2. <i>Arsenokoites</i> (man bedder) is used as a combination of <i>arsen</i> and <i>koites</i> in Lev 20:13 (LXX). 3. 1 Corinthians 6:9 condemns both partners in a same-sex act. 4. Christ washes, sanctifies, and justifies. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>GAY-AFFIRMING</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Malakos</i> is too broad a term to take this as the passive partner in a same-sex act. 2. We can't know what <i>arsenokoites</i> (man bedder) means because of etymological fallacies. 3. This could be referring to exploitative sex. 4. Change is not possible.
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Watershed Issue

Our society is being challenged to both accept and approve a wide variety of sexual orientations. In addition, the push toward a genderless culture is picking up steam. Marriage and family are being redefined. These issues are dividing families, friendships, and church bodies. Faith, sexuality, gender, and marriage are the watershed issues for the Body of Christ in this generation.

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Key Verse

“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

CORECLASSES

Understanding Cultural Influences

- Identity and the gay-Christian
- Overview of gay rights goals and gay theology
- Defining welcoming, affirming, and accepting

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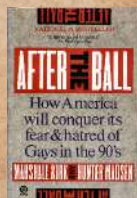
Identity and the Gay Christian

- One's sexual attractions and desires are core of one's identity. (Sigmund Freud Theory of Sexuality)

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Gay Rights Movement Objectives

- Desensitize how straight people view gays and lesbians by portraying them as victims.
- Gays will be viewed as powerless to change their attractions and behaviors by using the term "born this way."
- Make it illegal to oppose sexual orientation and gender identity.



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Gay Rights Goal for the Church

Undermine the moral authority of homo-hating churches . . . **raising serious theological objections to conservative biblical teachings** by portraying such institutions as antiquated backwaters, badly out of step with the times and with the latest findings of psychology.

Hunter and Madsen, After the Ball

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The Judeo-Christian biblical sexual ethic is the last barrier to full societal acceptance and approval of LGBT people.

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Welcoming/Affirming/Accepting Defined

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	Revisionist	Biblical
Welcoming	All people regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity; should be treated as equals in all aspects of church life.	All people are sinners and all need to hear the Good news that there is redemption, forgiveness and a new life in Christ.
Affirming	Each of us is made in God's image—beautiful, loved, unique and whole.	All people are made in the image of God. All people are born in sin and are fallen and broken in their humanity.
Accepting	All sexual orientations and gender identities are accepted by God and part of His intended design.	God designed sexuality and gender intentionally and to live outside of His intended design is to live in sin.

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Welcoming
+ Affirming
+ Accepting
+ Approving

= Immersion

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2 Timothy 4:3-5a

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. **But you should keep a clear mind in every situation.**

CORECLASSES
