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*EVANGELICAL CONFUSION*

Jen Hatmaker  
Speaker, Author of *For the Love*

"We wrestled with and through Scripture, not around it. Our view of the Word is still very high, as is it for the hundreds of thousands of faithful believers who believe likewise."



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## EVANGELICAL CONFUSION

Matthew Vines

Author of *God and the Gay Christian*

"Christians did not change their minds about the solar system because they lost respect for their Christian forebears or for the authority of Scripture. They changed their minds because they were confronted with evidence their predecessors had never considered . . ."




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## EVANGELICAL CONFUSION

Matthew Vines

Author of *God and the Gay Christian*

". . . the new information we have about sexual orientation actually *requires* us to reinterpret Scripture no matter what stance we take on same-sex relationships."




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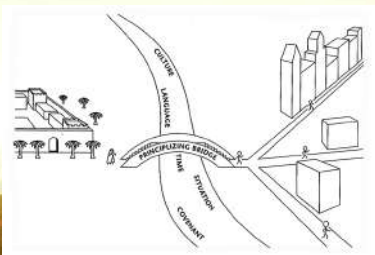
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## HERMENEUTICS 101




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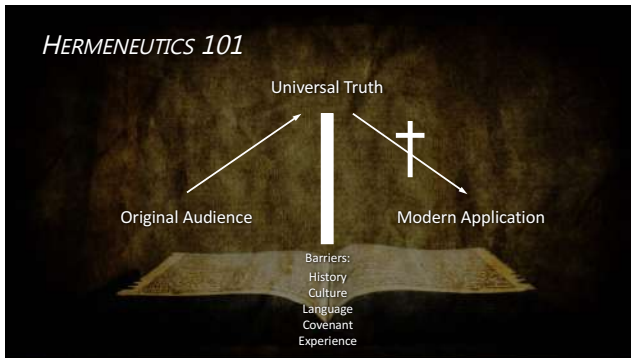
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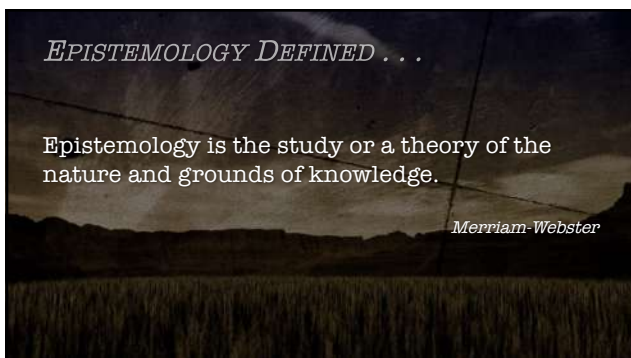
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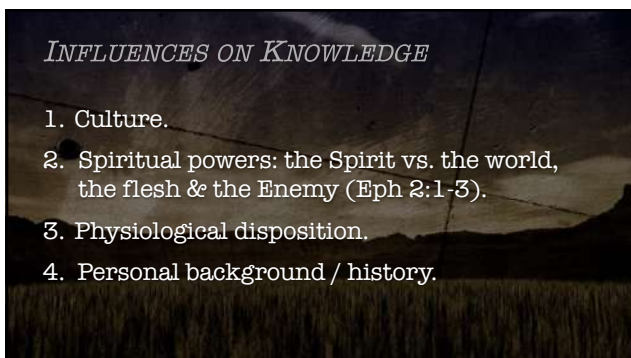
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### *SOURCES OF AUTHORITY*

#### Exegesis:

1. Scripture
2. Tradition
3. Reason
4. Experience
5. Emotion

#### Eisegesis:

1. Emotion
2. Experience
3. Reason
4. Tradition
5. Scripture

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### *SIX PASSAGES TO EXAMINE*

1. Genesis 1-3
2. Genesis 19:1-11
3. Leviticus 18:22, 20:13
4. Romans 1:18-27
5. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
6. 1 Timothy 1:8-11

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### *PASSAGE 1* Genesis 1-3

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## 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.

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## IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

### MALE:

זָכָר (Hebrew *zachar*) = Male, with an emphasis on the biological sex.

ἄρσεν (Greek *arsen*) = Male, with a strong emphasis on the biological sex.

### FEMALE:

נִקְבָּה (Hebrew *neqêvah*) = Female, from the verb to pierce or bore a hole in.

θήλυς (Greek *thelus*) = Female, from the verb to nurse, or suckle.

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## 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

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### 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 . . .

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### 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

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### GENESIS 1-2

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

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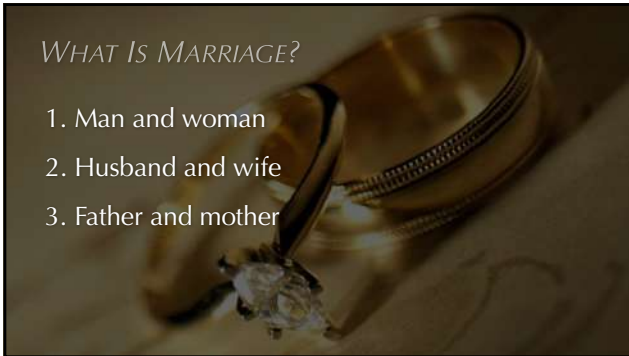
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*WHAT IS MARRIAGE?*

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

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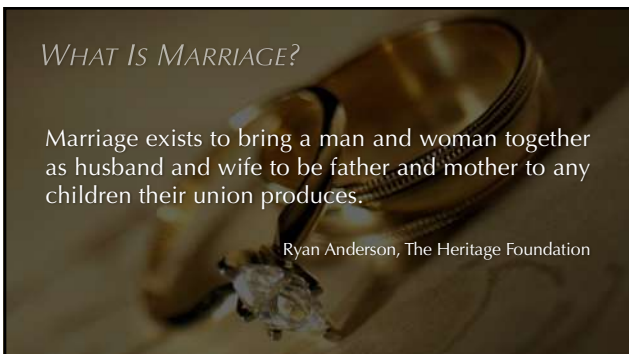
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*WHAT IS MARRIAGE?*

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

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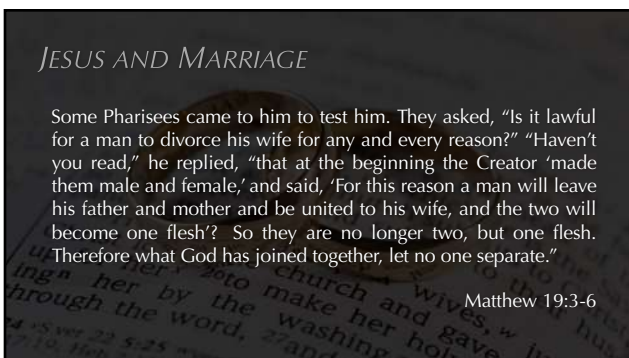
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*JESUS AND MARRIAGE*

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

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### 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).

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### 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.

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### 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.

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PASSAGE 2  
Genesis 19:1-11




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THE SIN OF SODOM

Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things (*toevah*) before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.

Ezekiel 16:49-50

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THE SIN OF SODOM

In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion (*sarkos heteras*). They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

Jude 7

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*TRADITIONAL*

1. Sodom and Gomorrah is about a lack of hospitality *and* sexual perversion.
2. Both Ezekiel and Jude help interpret the text.
3. The sexual perversion was gang rape that included same-sex acts.

*GAY-AFFIRMING*

1. Sodom and Gomorrah is primarily about a lack of hospitality.
2. Detestable (*toevah*) in the Ezekiel passage is too broad a term.
3. The sexual perversion was gang rape that included angels.

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*PASSAGE 3*

Leviticus 18:22, 20:13




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*LEVITICUS 18:22, 20:13*

Do not have sexual relations (LXX = *koite*) with a man (LXX = *arsenos*) as one does with a woman; that is detestable (*toevah*).

If a man has sexual relations (LXX = *koite*) with a man (*arsenos*) as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable (*toevah*). They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

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*LEVITICUS 18:22, 20:13*

Detestable (*toevah*) is the same word used in Ezekiel 16:50 in reference to Sodom and Gomorrah.

A variety of offenses are listed as detestable, including homosexuality, and all of them are bad.

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*HOW SHOULD WE TREAT THE LAW?*

DIETARY LAWS – Regulated Israel to keep it holy (separate) from surrounding nations. Jesus declared all foods clean (Mk 7:19). Through Christ the national division between Israel and the nations was done away with (Eph 2:11-22).

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*HOW SHOULD WE TREAT THE LAW?*

CEREMONIAL (CLEANLINESS) LAWS – Regulated Israel to keep it holy (pure) in the presence of God. These laws pointed toward future fulfillment (1 Sam 15:21-22; Ps 50:12-15; 51:17; Hos 6:6) and were fulfilled in Christ (the entire book of Hebrews).

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### HOW SHOULD WE TREAT THE LAW?

CIVIL LAWS – Regulated penalties for sin to maintain the integrity of the nation-state. Through Christ, all nations have been grafted into the people of God, so there is no nation-state, only the Church. While sin is still sin, the penalties for sin now range from admonishment to exclusion from membership. However, the NT still recognizes the power of the state to execute punishment up to and including death (Rom 13:1-5).

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### HOW SHOULD WE TREAT THE LAW?

Moral Laws – Revealed the character of God. God has not changed, so the Moral Laws have not either. Jesus upholds the Moral Law and clarifies the nature of it (Matt 5:27-30). The NT writers uphold it throughout (Rom 13:8-14, etc.).

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### HOW SHOULD WE TREAT THE LAW?

If Jesus is the the resurrected Son of God, [we] *can't* follow all the 'clean laws' of diet and practice, and [we] can't offer animal sacrifices. All that would be to deny the power of Christ's death on the cross. And so those who really believe in Christ *must* follow some Old Testament texts and not others."

Tim Keller, "Old Testament Law and The Charge of Inconsistency"

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

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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

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### 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"

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### 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*

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### 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.

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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"

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PASSAGE 4  
Romans 1:18-27




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GRECO-ROMAN CONTEXT

1. Gender Roles
2. Pederasty and Social Status
3. Female-Same Sex




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### THE BOOK OF ROMANS

1. Paul's magnum opus on salvation.
2. The 5 "S"s: Sin (1-3), Salvation (4-8), Sovereignty (9-11), Service (12-15), Salutation (16).
3. Romans 1-3 establishes the sinfulness of all men.

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### ROMANS 1:24-25

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

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### 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*

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*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 acts are simply one expression of this disorientation.

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*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.

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*WHAT IS "NATURAL"?*

Romans 11:24: After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

1 Corinthians 11:14-15: Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering.

Galatians 2:15: We who are Jews by birth (nature) and not sinful Gentiles . . .

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### WHAT IS "NATURAL"?

"These categories play a major role in Stoicism, where right moral action is closely identified with action *kata phusin*. In particular, the opposition between 'natural' and 'unnatural' is very frequently used (in the absence of convenient Greek words for 'heterosexual' and 'homosexual') as a way of distinguishing between heterosexual and homosexual behavior."

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

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### 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)

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### 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.

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### 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).

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### "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 . . .

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### "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

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<i>TRADITIONAL</i>	<i>GAY-AFFIRMING</i>
1. Same-sex acts in Romans 1 are the result of disorientation away from God.	1. Same-sex acts in Romans 1 are the result of insatiable sexual desire.
2. "Nature" refers to the created order (Gen 1-2). Sexual orientation is not in view.	2. "Nature" refers to one's sexual orientation.
3. As a faithful Jew, Paul upheld the OT prohibition against same-sex acts.	3. Because the Romans lived in a patriarchal society, this would be viewed as a condemnation against gender roles.

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*PASSAGE 5*  
1 Corinthians 6:9-11




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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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## 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*) . . .

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

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### TRADITIONAL

1. The text uses two words, both the passive and active partners in a same-sex act.
2. *Arsenokoites* (man bedder) is used as a combination of *arsen* and *koites* in Lev 20:13 (LXX).
3. 1 Corinthians 6:9 condemns both partners in a same-sex act.
4. Christ washes, sanctifies, and justifies.

### GAY-AFFIRMING

1. *Malakos* is too broad a term to take this as the passive partner in a same-sex act.
2. We can't know what *arsenokoites* (man bedder) means because of etymological fallacies.
3. This could be referring to exploitative sex.
4. Change is not possible.

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## PASSAGE 6 1 Timothy 1:8-11

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### 1 TIMOTHY 1:9-10

We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality (*arsenokoites*), for slave traders and liars and perjurers – and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.

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### TRADITIONAL

1. *Arsenokoites* (man bedder) is used as a combination of *arsen* and *koites* in Lev 20:13 (LXX).
2. It doesn't matter if the same-sex act is exploitative or consensual. Consensual would be worse.

### GAY-AFFIRMING

1. We can't know what *arsenokoites* (man bedder) means because of etymological fallacies.
2. Even if *arsenokoites* is the active partner in a same-sex act, this could be exploitative sex, not sex based on orientation.

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### CONCLUSION

To be clear, according to Scripture, both same-sex acts *and* same-sex orientation are against the created order and are sin. This is established in the Moral Law of the Old Testament, is reinforced by Jesus in the Gospels, and Paul in the Epistles. This is what we call a *Universal Principle*. It is true regardless of time, culture, covenant, etc.

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*ON TRUTH*

C. S. Lewis

*Author of Mere Christianity*

"If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end: if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth – only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin with and, in the end, despair."




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*WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH?*

1. To repent for marginalizing one sin over other, more "acceptable" sins.
2. Fully embrace people who struggle with same-sex attraction.
3. Provide gospel-centered discipleship and family support.




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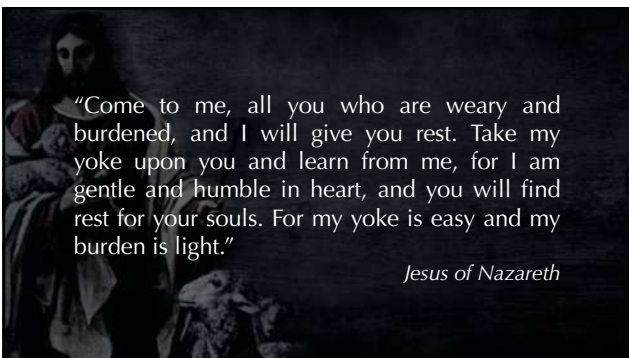
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"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

*Jesus of Nazareth*


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