

HOMOSEXUALITY

Homosexuality

The Problem

The Bible clearly indicates that homosexuality is wrong and sinful. Consider the following verses:

"Do not lie with a male as one lies with a woman; it is an abhorrence." Leviticus 18:22

"God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural 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 indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion."

Romans 1:26-27

"But we know that the Law is, good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted."

1 Timothy 1:8-11

One of the pre-eminent problems facing the homosexual is that continued practice of homosexuality will bar that person from the Kingdom of God:

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not enter the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the Kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God."

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

The Physical Effects of Homosexual Sex

Eventually, sinful behaviour takes its toll on the human body. This is clearly manifest in the case of the homosexual. Ultimately, the homosexual will be faced with physical ailments including colitis, mucosal ulcers in the rectum, Kobner's phenomenon, fecal incontinence, amebiasis, syphilis, genital herpes, cytomegalovirus, venereal warts, and, of course, AIDS of which there are at least 22 different AIDS contagions. The lifespan of a homosexual is considerably shorter than that of the average heterosexual.

Causes of Homosexuality

Needless to say, there is much dissension in the professional psychological community as to what causes homosexuality. The causes seem to be fall into three categories:

Although there has been a lot of press about the genetic causation of homosexuality, nothing has conclusively been proven to substantiate that homosexuality is "inbred."

1. Physical Explanations
2. Internal Theories
3. Interpersonal Theories

Please contact me for further information on this subject if you so desire.

Another school of thought postulates that homosexuality is caused by fears or inhibitions of asserting one's self; fear of the opposite sex; anxiety over general social contact; and gender-identity confusion.

The interpersonal theories concentrate on tracing the cause(s) of homosexuality back to deficient childparent relationships. For instance, these theories focus on such causes for homosexuality as a domineering mother who smothers her son with too much affection and love and/or a weak or passive father who doesn't show any affection towards his son. On the surface, a common denominator is that the child has experienced or perceived rejection from his father. The rejection may be passive or aggressive, real or supposed:

Studies of father absence report detrimental effects on children's aggression, dependency, degree of adjustment or "psychopathology," delinquency rates, moral behaviour, success in the Peace Corps or military, premarital pregnancy rates, masculinity in males, and intellectual performance.⁹⁶

Dr. Elizabeth Moberly contends that homosexuality arises from difficulties in the parent-child relationship in the earlier years of life. She believes that "deficit" spawns a "drive" to make good on

⁹⁶ Marshall L. Hamilton, *Father's Influence on Children* (Chicago, IL: Nelson-Hall, 1977), p. 51.

the "deficit" in the same-sex relationship.⁹⁷ Therefore, she believes homosexuality is "essentially a state of incomplete development."⁹⁸

Here are some of the causes that author Lawrence Hatterer posited in his book *Changing Homosexuality in the Male*:

- mothers distrust or fear women and teach this to their sons
- mothers distrust or fear men and teach this to their daughters
- a son is surrounded by too many females and has limited contact with adult males, thus learning to think and act like a girl
- parents who wanted a daughter but instead have a son, subtly raising the boy to think and act like a girl (vice versa -- wanted a son but got a girl)
- a son is rejected or ignored by his father and feels inadequate as a male and unsure of how males should relate to females
- both parents are afraid to discuss sex with child, leading a child to get a distorted view of sex or have difficulties in adjusting to heterosexual relationships
- a mother or father is so overly indulgent in child that child is overly attached to parent, and becomes convinced that no mate could ever compare with his/her opposite-sex parent

Hope For the Homosexual

Contrary to public belief, not all homosexuals just wake up and decide that they are sexually attracted to their own gender. Some have had these feelings for as long as they can remember. In fact, research seems to indicate that few people deliberately choose the homosexual way of life. Yet, biblical morality isn't determined by our feelings. Rather, we must consciously choose to alter our attitudes and behaviour to obey our Lord Jesus Christ. Needless to say, many of us have heavy crosses to bear. Despite this, however, there is real hope for the homosexual. One writer observed that:

...'changing sexual preference is not particularly difficult for those who make that choice.' Such change is possible even in the so-called 'Kinsey 6' or 'obligatory homosexual' who has

⁹⁷Elizabeth Moberly, *Homosexuality: A New Christian Ethic* (Greenwood, SC: Attic Press, 1982), p. 2.

⁹⁸*Ibid*, p. 28.

never experienced heterosexual relations.⁹⁹

However, many other "converted" homosexuals claim that it is difficult, but not impossible to convert to being heterosexual from homosexual.

Indeed, Masters and Johnson achieved a 71.6 percent success rate in changing homosexuals to heterosexuality -- five years straight -- with a group of 300 homosexuals. One psychiatrist has achieved a 100 percent success rate.¹⁰⁰ Other professional counsellors have reported impressive results with psychoanalytic psychotherapy and behavioral treatments. For instance, Irving Bieber (1962) reported that 31 out of 100 homosexual patients were functioning as heterosexuals within five years of treatment.¹⁰¹ Others have yielded similar results.¹⁰² There are at least 75 agencies and ministries which claim that homosexuality is a reversible condition.¹⁰³ The data definitely supports the contention that homosexuals can change:

"The data provide a substantial body of evidence for the plausibility of change from exclusive homosexuality to exclusive heterosexuality, which is in accordance with the Kinsey statistical probabilities for such change, the Masters and Johnson data, and the clinical or observational anecdotes of such change. Our data demonstrate that such change has occurred through significant longitudinal experiences in 'folk therapy' provided with a supernatural framework and utilizing generic methods of change common to folk therapy. Our data suggest the importance of ideology, expectation, and behavioral experience in producing change. The evidence suggests that cognitive change occurs first, followed by behavioral change, and finally intrapsychic resolution. Finally, the data suggest the importance of our concepts of homosexuality. When homosexuality is defined as an immutable and fixed condition that must be accepted, the potential for change seems slim. In our study, however, when homosexuality was defined as a changeable condition, it appears that change was possible."¹⁰⁴

⁹⁹John Jefferson Davis, *Evangelical Ethics* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1985), p. 112.

¹⁰⁰William D. Gairdner, *The War Against the Family* (Toronto, ON: Stoddart Publishing Co., Ltd., 1992), pp. 366, 373.

¹⁰¹Irving Bieber, *Homosexuality* (New York: Basic Books, 1962)

¹⁰²M. MacCullagh and M. Feldman, "Aversion Therapy in the Management of Homosexuals." *British Medical Journal* 12 (1957):594. See also J. Bancroft, *Deviant Sexual Behaviour* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1974)

¹⁰³"The Exodus Story: The Growth of Ex-Gay Ministry," by Robert Davis, in *The Crisis of Homosexuality*, Isamu Yamamoto, ed., (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1990)

¹⁰⁴E. Mansell and Myrna Loy Pattison, "Ex-Gays': Religiously Mediated Change in Homosexuals," *American Journal of Psychiatry* 137, no. 12 (Dec. 1980): 1553.

Organizations such as Exodus International have proven that through love and compassion, homosexuals can change.¹⁰⁵ The principle point is that you can show love, understanding and compassion without condoning or promoting immoral behaviour.

Jesus died for our sins, all of our sins, regardless of whatever they may be:

"...the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin."¹⁰⁶

Through the grace of God, homosexuals can change. In fact, several in the Corinth church were "reformed" homosexuals:

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not enter the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the Kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God." [emphasis mine]

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Evidently, some of the Corinthians were homosexuals prior to their conversion in Christ. But through the grace of God, they were "new creations" and became "saints."

British psychiatrist Kenneth McAll has helped 15 homosexual men overcome and change through a combination of prayer and psychotherapy. Apparently, "white knuckling" or pure will power has been ineffective in helping both brethren and homosexuals outside the Christadelphian community from overcoming homosexuality. Many brethren have "back slid" when relying solely on this technique to overcome this practice.

In a most impressive survey, Dr. Roger Mesmer noted that 101 homosexuals were able to stop homosexual activity either completely or substantially.¹⁰⁷ An overwhelming number of respondents indicated that they felt better spiritually, socially and reported psychological improvement after their change.

His questionnaire also revealed some interesting points about the parents of homosexuals¹⁰⁸:

¹⁰⁵Tom Bethell, "Exodus," *The American Spectator*, October 1991, p. 9. He details the story of Bret Lutz who joined the Calvary Chapel which helped him convert from being homosexual to becoming heterosexual.

¹⁰⁶1 John 1:7

¹⁰⁷Roger Mesmer, "Homosexuals Who Change Lifestyles," *The Journal of Christian Healing*, Vol. 14, No. 1, Spring 1992, p. 14.

¹⁰⁸Ibid, p. 15.

Fathers of Homosexuals

Alcoholic	18%
Mentally Abusive	28%
Absent, remote, uninvolved	72%
Unaffirming	93%

Mothers of Lesbians

Mentally Abusive	63%
Unaffirming	75%

Fathers of Lesbians

Alcoholic	63%
Sexually/Mentally Abusive	50%
Absent or Uninvolved	63%

The re-occurring denominators in the questionnaire were "mentally abusive," "unaffirming" and "absent" or "uninvolved" parents. This is especially true of men.¹⁰⁹ However, this statistics aren't absolute. Therefore, the parents of every homos exual don't necessarily fit this mold, nor should they be psychoanalysed to fit such a hole. Humans are complex, complicated beings. Usually there is more than one factor or reason which satisfactorily explains our behaviour. However, parents can take some positive, proactive steps in building healthy self-esteem in their children:

1. Build healthy home environment
2. Give accurate information about homosexuality
3. Develop healthy self-concept
4. Maintain proper perspective towards spouse and children

Note: "...children need love, but they should always realize that they are number two in the heart of their parents. If they grow up thinking they are number one, they will have a difficult time adjusting normally to the opposite sex."¹¹⁰

Leanne Payne, *Crisis in Masculinity* (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1985) and *The Broken Image* (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1987)

Dr. Howard Hendricks quoted in *The Act of Marriage: The Beauty of Sexual Love*, Tim and Beverly LaHaye (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976), p. 280.

Practical Help

Counselling the Homosexual

Here are some pragmatic tips to follow when counselling a homosexual:

- 1 . Determine counselling goals
2. Instill realistic hope
3. Share knowledge; break down fallacies and unwarranted fears 4.
Show love and affection
5. Encourage behaviour change
6. Counselling may be complex and time consuming

Resources

If you want to conduct a comprehensive study into ways and means of overcoming homosexuality, write to:

Regeneration Books, P.O. Box 9830, Baltimore, MD 21284-9830

or

Exodus International, P.O. Box 2121, San Rafael, CA 94912

Other resources:

Wendell and Nancy Anderson, Lessons to Help Wives Deal With Homosexual Issues in Their Husbands,
(Eagles' Wings, 1700 Highway
96, Arden Hills, MN 55112)

Lessons to Help Families Deal With Homosexual Issues in Their Children (Eagles' Wings, 1700 Highway
96, Arden Hills, MN
55112)

Bradford, Brick, et al., Healing For the Homosexual (Presbyterian & Reformed Renewal Ministry, 2245 NW 39th
Street, Oklahoma City, OK
73112)

Roger Mesmer, "Homosexuals Who Change Lifestyles," *The Journal of Christian Healing*, Vol. 14, No. 1, Spring 1992: 12-18.

Elizabeth R. Moberly, *Homosexuality: A New Christian Ethic* Greenwood, SC: Attic Press, 1982)

E.M. Pattison and M.L. Pattison, "'Ex-Gays': Religiously Mediated Change in Homosexuals," *American Journal of Psychiatry* 137 (1980): 1553-62.

Leanne Payne, *The Broken Image: Restoring Personal Wholeness through Healing Prayer* (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1981)

George Rekers, *Growing Up Straight: What Every Family Should Know About Homosexuality* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1982)

Shaping Your Child's Sexual Identity (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1982)

John Stott, *Homosexual Partnerships: Why Same-Sex Relationships Are Not a Christian Option*, John Stott (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press)