

GOD IS THE BEST EXPLANATION FOR WHY HUMAN SEXUALITY HAS MEANING.

The Christian Case for Sexuality

- 1) The emotional and sensitive nature of the topic.
- 2) What has always applied to all of us: Jesus' command to **repent**.
 - Mark 1:14b-15 *Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*
- 3) Christian contrast with the Greco-Roman world.
 - a. Exclusive worship of Jesus Christ as God: Rejection of **idol** worship.
 - b. **Exclusive** sexual monogamy: Sex is reserved for monogamous heterosexual marriage (Acts 15:29).
 - c. Old Testament.
 - Genesis 1:27 *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*
 - Genesis 2:24 *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*
 - Genesis 19:1-14; Jude 7 (Sodom and Gomorrah)
 - Leviticus 18:22, *"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination."*
 - Leviticus 20:13a *"If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination."*
 - Three kinds of law:¹ 1) Ceremonial (Israelite identifiers in contrast to the surrounding pagan world); 2) Civil (Function of the Israelite political system); 3) Moral (accessible to and binding on all nations).
 - d. Jesus' affirmation of the Old Testament.
 - Matthew 19:1-12 Jesus references Genesis 1 when questioned about marriage.
 - Jesus came to **fulfill**, not destroy, the Old Testament (Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:44).
 - e. New Testament.

Q: Is homosexuality a sin?

A: **Temptation** is not a sin; same-sex sexual activity, as well as heterosexual sexual activity outside of marriage are sin. The *capacity* to be tempted is not sin but it is a **reflection** of our fallen nature and a reminder that we need a Savior. We are not held accountable for our temptations but for our response to temptation. Jesus was tempted but remained sinless. Sam Allberry: "Desires for things God has forbidden are a reflection of how sin has distorted me, not how God has made me"² (James 1:14-15).

- Romans 1:26-27 *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.*
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 *“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.”*
 - 1 Timothy 1:8-10 *Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,⁹ understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers,¹⁰ the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,*
- 4) What God has always been clear about: Jesus’ message of Good News includes redemption from sexual impurity, which includes same-sex activity.

What now?

Q: Is there hope for persons with same-sex attraction?

A: Yes!

- Sexual brokenness is not confined to homosexual behavior.³
- Whatever you give up for Jesus, you’ll receive far greater things from Jesus – Mark 10:28-29
- Jesus offers you a new identity not determined by your temptation: No matter how we were born, Jesus calls all of us to be born again.
- Reach out to us via Connect Card or Next Steps Center.

“In the end, Christianity triumphed in its early Greco-Roman context not because it was the same as the surrounding pagan culture, but because it was different.”⁴

– Michael Kruger

Recommended resources

- *Love thy Body* by Nancy Pearcey
- *Is God Anti-Gay?* by Sam Allberry
- *Unchanging Witness: The Consistent Christian Teaching on Homosexuality in Scripture and Tradition* by S. Donald Fortson III & Rollin G. Grams
- *Gay Girl, Good God* by Jackie Hill Perry
- *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics* by Robert A. J. Gagnon
- *A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today’s World* by John Stonestreet & Brett Kunkle

¹ Nancy Pearcey, *Love Thy Body* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2018), 183-184.

² Sam Allberry, *Is God Anti-Gay?* rev. and expanded ed. (UK: The Good Book Company, 2015), 32.

³ John Stonestreet & Brett Kunkle, *A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today’s World* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2017), 199.

⁴ Michael Kruger, “One Trait that Set Apart the Earliest Christians,” *The Gospel Coalition*, October 28, 2014, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/one-trait-that-set-apart-the-earliest-christians/>.