

**Understanding the Truth  
about Homosexuality:  
Balancing Truth and Grace**

**Brad McConaughey**

**John MacArthur**

**Randy Alcorn**

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## About the Authors



### **Brad McConnaughey**

Brad McConnaughey has been the Senior Pastor of Alderwood Community Church in Lynnwood, Washington, since August 1998. He and his wife, Kay, have been married for 31 years. They have three beautiful daughters, Lauren, Lisa and Alison.

Brad received his Bachelor's degree in 1982 from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, and his Master's degree in 1991 from Talbot School of Theology in La Mirada, California.

He was the Senior Pastor of Grace Mesa Baptist Church in Grand Junction, Colorado, from 1994-1998. He was Associate Pastor of Central Baptist Church in Huntington Beach, California, from 1984-1994.

Brad enjoys playing all sports, but softball is his favorite. He enjoys sporting events with his family. He likes working out at the gym to stay in shape. He also enjoys watching movies with his family, taking them shopping and out to dinner. When the weather is nice, Brad enjoys working in his yard.

## About the Authors



### John MacArthur

John MacArthur is the Pastor-Teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, as well as an author, conference speaker, president of The Master's College and Seminary, and featured teacher with the Grace to You media ministry.

In 1969, after graduating from Talbot Theological Seminary, John came to Grace Community Church. The emphasis of his pulpit ministry is the careful study and verse-by-verse exposition of the Bible, with special attention devoted to the historical and grammatical background behind each passage. Under John's leadership, Grace Community Church's two morning worship services fill the 3,500-seat auditorium to capacity. Several thousand members participate every week in dozens of fellowship groups and training programs, most led by lay

leaders and each dedicated to equipping members for ministry on local, national, and international levels.

In 1985, John became president of The Master's College (formerly Los Angeles Baptist College), an accredited, four-year liberal arts Christian college in Santa Clarita, California. In 1986, John founded The Master's Seminary, a graduate school dedicated to training men for full-time pastoral roles and missionary work.

John is also president and featured teacher with Grace to You. Founded in 1969, Grace to You is the nonprofit organization responsible for developing, producing, and distributing John's books, audio resources, and the "Grace to You" radio and television programs. "Grace to You" radio airs more than 1,000 times daily throughout the English-speaking world, reaching major population centers on every continent of the world. It also airs nearly 1,000 times daily in Spanish, reaching 23 countries from Europe to Latin America. "Grace to You" television airs weekly on DirecTV in the United States, and is available for free on the Internet worldwide. All of John's 3,000 sermons, spanning more than four decades of ministry, are available for free on this website.

Since completing his first best-selling book *The Gospel According to Jesus* in 1988, John has written nearly 400 books and study guides, including *Our Sufficiency in Christ*, *Charismatic Chaos*, *Ashamed of the Gospel*, *The Murder of Jesus*, *A Tale of Two Sons*, *Twelve Ordinary Men*, *The Truth War*, *The Jesus You Can't Ignore*, *Slave*, and *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary* series. John's titles have been translated into more than two dozen languages. *The MacArthur Study Bible*, the cornerstone resource of his ministry, is available in English (NKJ, NAS, and ESV), Spanish, Russian,

German, French, Portuguese, and Italian, with Chinese and Arabic translations underway.

John and his wife, Patricia, live in Southern California and have four adult children: Matt, Marcy, Mark, and Melinda. They also enjoy the enthusiastic company of their fifteen grandchildren.

## About the Authors



### Randy Alcorn

Randy Alcorn is an author and the founder and director of Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM), a nonprofit ministry dedicated to teaching principles of God's Word and assisting the church in ministering to the unreached, unfed, unborn, uneducated, unreconciled, and unsupported people around the world. His ministry focus is communicating the strategic importance of using our earthly time, money, possessions and opportunities to invest in need-meeting ministries that count for eternity. He accomplishes this by analyzing, teaching, and applying the biblical truth.

Before starting EPM in 1990, Randy served as a pastor for fourteen years. He has an MA degree in Biblical Studies from Multnomah University and an Honorary Doctorate from Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon and has taught on the adjunct faculties of both.

A *New York Times* bestselling author, Randy has written more than forty books, including the bestsellers *Heaven*, *The Treasure Principle*, and the Gold Medallion winner *Safely Home*. His books in print exceed seven million and have been translated into over thirty languages. Randy has written for many magazines including EPM's quarterly issues-oriented magazine *Eternal Perspectives*. He is active daily on Facebook and Twitter, has been a guest on more than 700 radio, television and online programs including Focus on the Family, FamilyLife Today, Revive Our Hearts, The Bible Answer Man, and The Resurgence.

Randy resides in Gresham, Oregon, with his wife, Nanci. They have two married daughters and are the proud grandparents of five grandsons. Randy enjoys hanging out with his family, biking, tennis, research, and reading.

# Understanding the Truth About Homosexuality

**Brad McConnaughey**

The bill to legalize same-sex marriage in Washington State was signed by our Governor on February 13, 2012. This new law is not about civil rights. It is not about legal rights, because with the passing of the Civil Union law, homosexual couples already have all the legal rights that married couples have in Washington State. It is not about fairness or equality. It is about the re-definition of marriage. It has come about because of the frontal attack on the sanctity of marriage as God has designed it, by the activist homosexual community. It has been part of their strategy since the late 80's.

But marriage has been defined for us already in the Bible:

*“Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, ‘Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?’ And He answered them and said, ‘Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.’ They said to Him, ‘Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?’ He said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.’”*  
(Matthew 19:3-9, nasb).

God's design and definition for marriage has always been: One man and one woman for life!

This whole issue of the definition of marriage and homosexual rights is not only a very controversial subject but one that is tearing at the moral fabric of our culture. I want to equip you to be able to think biblically and articulate clearly regarding the subject of homosexuality and the definition of marriage. To begin with, I will show you the contributing factors of how our culture has changed and become more tolerant of homosexuality. I also want to help you understand the psychological and scientific issues regarding homosexuality. Lastly, we will examine the scriptures so we can have a very firm grasp on what the God has to say about this issue.

But not only do we need to have a clear understanding of the truth about homosexuality and the tactics of gay activists, we need to have sincere compassion for the individuals caught in this trap and reach out to them with grace and truth. We must not compromise the truth or grace.

Whenever someone addresses such a controversial issue, there are bound to be misunderstandings. Let me clarify a few things. I don't have an axe to grind. I do have a God whom I want to obey. I am attempting to be very careful, and I would suggest the same for you, that when addressing the subject of homosexuality we avoid stereotypes, avoid overstatement and are careful not to over sensationalize.

### **So how did our culture get into this mess?**

Essentially the answer boils down to this: Influential groups have presented only one point of view. The strategy of gay activists is to change America's public opinion regarding homosexuality by controlling the flow of information.

## **National mental health organizations have politicized the issue.**

Consider the rapid change in our society. In 1963 the New York Academy of Medicine charged its Committee on Public Health to report on the subject of homosexuality, prompted by a concern that homosexual behavior seemed to be increasing.

The Committee reported that: "Homosexuality is indeed an illness. The homosexual is an emotionally disturbed individual who has not acquired the normal capacity to develop satisfying heterosexual relations." New York Academy of Medicine

It also noted that:

"Some homosexuals have gone beyond the plane of defensiveness and now argue that deviancy is a desirable, noble, preferable way of life." New York Academy of Medicine

Just ten years later – with no significant new scientific evidence – the homosexual activists' argument became the new standard within psychiatry. For in 1973 the American Psychiatric Association voted to strike homosexuality from the officially approved list of psychiatric illnesses. How did this occur? According to Dr. Jeffrey Satinover, a psychiatrist who lectures at both Harvard and Yale, in his book *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*, he states, "Normally a scientific consensus is reached over the course of many years, resulting from the accumulated weight of many properly designed studies. But not in this case, it was pushed through by the manipulative tactics of gay activists. However, only one-third of membership voted for this change. Four years after this vote in 1977, the journal of Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality reported on a survey it conducted that showed that 69% of psychiatrists disagreed with the vote and still considered homosexuality a disorder" (pg. 31-40).

Dr. Merton Strommen who is a well-respected research psychologist and an Evangelical Lutheran Pastor, and who was also awarded Fellow Status for his pioneering work in the psychology of religion by the American Psychological Association states:

“Both the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Associations have equated homosexuality with heterosexuality. Their committees and publications have influenced courts, legislatures and public opinion. The political stance of these organizations has made it nearly impossible to fund research that could test their opinion or publish articles opposing their view.” Dr. Merton Strommen

**Academic circles are opposed to an open discussion of this issue.**

Freedom of thought on this issue in universities is discouraged. They promote a message of tolerance, but don't grant it to those who disagree with their position on homosexuality.

**The media is deliberately used to sell homosexuality to America as normal.**

President Abraham Lincoln correctly assessed his generation and ours today,

“In this age, in this country, public sentiment is everything. With it, nothing can fail; against it, nothing can succeed. Whoever molds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes, or pronounces judicial decisions.” Abraham Lincoln

In 1989 two Harvard graduates, Marshall Kirk, a researcher in neuropsychiatry and Hunter Madsen, a public relations consultant, shrewdly understood how to sway public sentiment. Together they wrote a book, which they conceived as a "gay manifesto for the 1990's."

In their book *After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear And Hatred Of Gays in the 90's*, the authors offered candid public relations advice to homosexuals calling them:

"To repackage themselves as mainstream citizens demanding equal treatment, rather than as a promiscuous sexual minority seeking greater opportunity and influence."

"Portray gays as victims of circumstance and depression, not as aggressive challengers." This would be necessary, they argued, because "Gays must be portrayed as victims in need of protection so that straights will be inclined by reflex to adopt the role of protector."

"We argue that, for all practical purposes, gays should be considered to have been born gay – even though sexual orientation, for most humans, seems to be the product of a complex interaction between innate predispositions and environmental factors during childhood and early adolescence." Alas, "To suggest in public that homosexuality might be chosen is to open the can of worms labeled 'moral choices and sin' and give the religious intransigents a stick to beat us with. Straights must be taught that it is as natural for some persons to be homosexual as it is for others to be heterosexual: wickedness and seduction have nothing to do with it." (Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen, *After the Ball*)

This book ends with a call to discredit, intimidate and silence opponents. Instead of allowing free and open debate, they

advocate desensitizing America to homosexuality. How? By jamming any contrary messages and mobilizing sympathetic political forces.

Give them credit: they really did understand the operation of the public mind.

### **Legal actions, well publicized now threaten organizations holding a traditional opinion.**

The Boy Scouts took a public stand against openly gay men not being allowed to be leaders in their organizations. Law suits were taken against them. Many of their larger donors withdrew their funds because of this stand that the Boy Scouts took.

But do you know why the Boy Scouts of America took this stand? Most people do not know.

In 1993 a California family sued the Boy Scouts for exposing their son to a Scout Leader who molested him. In a subsequent law suit, the Scouts were forced to turn over all of their documentation.

It was discovered that thousands of boys had been molested by Scout Leaders and other volunteers between 1971 and 1997 resulting in the expulsion of over 1,800 Scout Volunteers for sexual misconduct. The documents showed that some Scout Leaders had molested over 40 such boys before getting caught. Yet, the North American Man-Boy Association wrote the Boy Scouts urging them to cease its discrimination against openly gay and lesbian persons in the appointment of Scout Masters and Scouters in its membership.

**Many Public Schools are adopting curriculum to present homosexuality as normal and some are even encouraging homosexual clubs for students.**

There is a ninth grade textbook in the Boston Public Schools that says this:

“Testing your ability to function sexually and give pleasure to another person maybe less threatening in the early teens with people of your own sex.”

The book also advises children:

“Come to the conclusion that growing up means rejecting the values of your parents.”

It is very clear that there is so much confusion on the issue because many of the powers that be control the flow of information and the American public is primarily getting a pro-homosexual bias.

In the December/January 1994 edition of “Out” magazine, gay activist Michelangelo Signorile urges homosexuals to:

“Fight for same sex marriage and its benefits and then, once granted, redefine the institution of marriage completely, to demand the right to marry, not as a way of adhering to society’s moral codes but to debunk a myth and radically alter an archaic institution.”

Gay activists over the past 36 years have successfully shaped and promoted a new consensus on homosexuality that is a potent political force. According to Dr. Jeffrey Satinover:

“This consensus is composed of three key propositions. As these propositions have slowly spread throughout society, people use them to demand that all sectors of society- including religious institutions morally opposed to homosexual practice- treat practicing homosexuals in exactly the same way as active heterosexuals. The three false propositions follow:

1. First as a matter of biology, homosexuality is an innate, genetically determined aspect of the human body. Otherwise, a person is born homosexual.
2. Second, as a matter of psychology, homosexuality is irreversible. Indeed, the attempt to reverse it requires so profound a denial of self that it is said to cause the widely acknowledged, higher-than-average mental problems among homosexuals, such as depression, suicide, and alcohol and drug use. Otherwise it cannot be altered.  
*By the way, homosexuals have a higher than average struggle than the general public with depression, suicide, alcohol and drug use and experience with sexual diseases. They also have a much shorter life span than heterosexuals.*
3. Third, as a matter of sociology, homosexuality is normal, akin to such other social categories as sex and race. Otherwise it is normal.

According to Dr. Merton Strommen “These three assumptions have not been established as fact and they are not true. They are no more than unproven hypothesis.”

Dr. Jeffrey Satinover stated that “Hard science is far from providing an explanation of homosexuality, let alone one that reduces it to genetic determinism.”

### **So what is the real truth about homosexuality?**

Stanton Jones and Mark Yarhouse, both psychologists in their book, *Homosexuality: The Use of Scientific Research in the Church's Moral Debate* note that:

“The origins of homosexuality are not clearly understood by scientists. The scientific evidence about causation is simply inconclusive at this time.”

**As a matter of biology homosexuality is not innate, but a choice.**

Dr. Francis Collins, head of the Human Genome Project, summed up the research on homosexuality saying that:

“Sexual orientation is genetically *influenced* but not *hardwired* by DNA, and that whatever genes are involved represent *predispositions*, not *predeterminations*.”

**As a matter of psychology homosexuality is reversible.**

Pro-gay ally Dr. Robert Spitzer of Columbia University (who by the way was the chairman of the committee in 1973 that removed homosexuality out of the category of mental illness) became convinced that many homosexuals have successfully changed their sexual orientation. In 2001, he published results from a study of 200 gay men and lesbians who had sought "re-orientation" therapy. Spitzer found that most have been able to achieve fulfilling heterosexual relationships. While his research shows that such change often involves a long and difficult journey, it is nevertheless possible for highly motivated individuals.

**As a matter of sociology homosexuality is not normal but a developmental disorder and a perversion of nature.**

So, if a homosexual is not born this way, how does a person become one?

According to Dr. Merton Strommen:

1. **Some believe there may be a genetic pre-disposition known to exist for homosexuals.**

This is not the same thing as saying that there is a “gay gene”. But these pre-disposing characteristics do not determine that one will become homosexual, they only make the person more susceptible or vulnerable to familial, social and environmental influences.

Dr. Whitehead, who studied pre-dispositions, estimates that it has a 10% influence at best on a person becoming homosexual. Much like a person may have a genetic pre-disposition for alcoholism that may run in his family, but that does not determine his behavior, he still has a choice whether or not to drink. So, all homosexuals have a choice as well. You have to look carefully at the language in people’s statements. There is a difference between a contributing or influencing factor and something that determines a person’s behavior.

So, if genetic pre-disposition accounts for only 10%, what accounts for the other 90%?

## **2. Environmental factors contribute to same sex attraction.**

- (a) The child’s relationship to mother and father.
- (b) Sexual activity with other boys.
- (c) Sexual abuse by an adult.
- (d) Pornographic literature.
- (e) Personal decisions made by a person as to their identity.

## **What does the Bible say about homosexuality?**

*“Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable”* (Leviticus 18:22, niv).

“Detestable” means arousing intense dislike.

*“For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error”*  
(Romans 1:26-27, nasb)

*“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 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, nasb).

(See also: Genesis 1:27-28, 2:22-25, 19:1-29; Leviticus 20:13; Isaiah 3:8,9; Matthew 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-25; 1 Corinthians 6:12-19, 7:1-9; Jude 7)

### **God categorically calls homosexuality a sin.**

Some Christians categorize homosexuality as a worse sin, than say, adultery. All sin is an offense to God, but obviously not all sin bear the same consequences.

Some associate orientation or same-sex attraction as an innate condition of homosexuality. Meaning, if a person has these strong attractions to the same sex, they must be homosexual, so they might as well give in to these tendencies because that is their identity, who they are.

Many homosexuals will react to the statement that homosexuality is a choice rather than an inborn trait. Many will say that they did not choose this orientation, but feel trapped.

Many times these feelings and attractions have been brought on by a combination of genetic pre-disposition, environmental factors and abuse. So there is some truth to the fact that a number of homosexuals did not choose this orientation, but they can choose whether or not to act out on their desires.

But just because a person has a strong attraction does not make it right to act out on it. Just like when a heterosexual, who is attracted to the opposite sex, which is a natural attraction, becomes fixated on a person who is not their spouse, Jesus called that lust. Heterosexual sex with any person who is not your marriage partner is called adultery and it is a sin. Heterosexuals must constantly practice self-discipline and not act out on every impulse they have when attracted to a person of the opposite sex who is not their marriage partner. So must homosexuals demonstrate self control.

Guy Charles- a former homosexual, said:

“No one is born gay, we make a decision to perform a sexual act, the act becomes a habit and the habit then becomes a lifestyle.”

**How can any Christian after reading these Scriptures come to a different conclusion?**

**How do you determine right from wrong?**

Is the Word of God really your standard or are you allowing the changing views of our culture dictate what is right and what is wrong?

If the Word of God really contains the inspired words of God to men, then we must obey it at all times, even when it is not popular or politically correct.

## **Many people re-interpret the Scriptures conforming to social pressure.**

According to Dr. Merton Stommen, "Theologians, some gay and lesbian and some not, are reinterpreting biblical passages to remove their condemnation of homosexuality. Some are saying that the Apostle Paul was simply wrong in what he said."

"Peter Gomes (1996) a homosexual pastor at Harvard University, argues in his book, *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*, that the Christian Church has arrived at a more enlightened position than what the Bible says about slavery and women. Therefore, he says, we should do the same with respect to homosexuality."

But past mistakes of the church (such as the issue of slavery) don't change the position of the Bible on other issues.

Dr. Merton Strommen states, "It is significant that the preaching and teaching of Christ and his apostles did not address the social issues but rather focused on people's relationship to Jesus Christ. They chose not to address social ills of the day such as men's treatment of women, the centuries old trafficking in slaves, the cruel treatment of prisoners, the use of crucifixion, or the wide-spread abuses of corrupt government headed by the Herod family. Their message focused solely on a faith relationship with Jesus Christ. As a result this message has permeated society like yeast and profoundly influenced how these social ills are viewed today."

Some Christians refer to Christ's command to "*love one another as I have loved you*" as rationale that the loving thing to do is to accept homosexual behavior out of fear of rejecting the homosexual. But we are called to love people and be truthful regarding sinful behavior.

## **Some argue that Jesus never spoke out against homosexuality, therefore it couldn't be wrong.**

Just because nothing is recorded doesn't mean that He didn't address the issue.

*"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25, nasb)*

This is a very poor argument from silence. Jesus did not address incest, rape or bestiality.

"But the truth is whenever Jesus spoke about human sexuality he spoke of it in context of heterosexual relationships, affirming celibacy as the only alternative to marriage." Dr. Merton Strommen

Whenever Jesus spoke about marriage, he always spoke about it consisting of a woman and a man. Matthew 19:1-12 (Jesus quotes Genesis 1:27, 2:24)

Jesus and the Apostles upheld the authority of the Scriptures and used the phrase *"that the Scripture may be fulfilled"* 27 times when referring to the Old Testament Scriptures. Matthew 5:17-18

God's goal for all of his children is to obey Him and live pure lives.

*"Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:18-20, nasb).*

## **How would Jesus respond to a homosexual?**

*“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14, nasb).*

*“And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick” (Luke 5:31, nasb).*

*“Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them.’ So He told them this parable...” (Luke 15:1-3ff, nasb).*

Jesus would love the homosexual as he does all of us sinners. He never approved sin, but confronted it directly.

When Jesus was speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well, *“He said to her, ‘Go, call your husband and come here.’ The woman answered and said, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly” (John 4:16-18, nasb).*

In John 8:10-11 after all of her men who were going to stone her had left, the woman caught in the very act of adultery found herself standing all alone in Jesus’ presence. *“Straightening up, Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?’ She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said, ‘I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.’”*

## **How should we respond to homosexuals as followers of Jesus Christ?**

**We need to speak the truth.** Luke 24:45-48; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16

We hear the expression, “coming out of the closet.” The time has come for Christians, to take a deep breath, and come out of the closet with the truth, that there is hope for the homosexual, and that hope is found in Jesus Christ. There is grace and forgiveness and freedom extended to them.

As Christians, we are not to revile the homosexual, nor are we to rationalize their behavior, but we are to rescue them from that lifestyle.

One former lesbian told her pastor, “When you preach on this subject, do me a favor, please do not call it a lifestyle, call it a death style. Homosexuality is anything but gay.”

*“And that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things” (Luke 24:47-48, nasb).*

*“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12, nasb).*

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16, nasb).*

Be Bold to talk about the Gospel!

Be Bold to speak the truth about homosexuality.

**We need to speak the truth with love and grace.** Colossians 2:8,4:6; Matthew 22:37-40

*“Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person” (Colossians 4:6, nasb).*

Jesus said, *“All men will know that you are My disciples by (the fervency of your protests) your love for one another.”*

Jesus commanded us *“to love our neighbor as ourselves.”* *“to love your enemies.”* And *“to love one another.”* That covers everyone. We are commanded to love the homosexual. This doesn't mean that we compromise the truth.

*“You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord”* (Leviticus 19:17-18, nasb).

Love compels us to speak the truth. Love does not refrain from disagreeing with our neighbors, neither does it justify being hateful and cruel. There are times when love motivates us to speak up and challenge the actions of our neighbor. The issue of homosexuality is a case in point.

For too long, Christians have been more concerned with cursing the darkness rather than being the light and spreading the light of God's Word.

Our responsibility is more than drawing lines in the sand, but we are to build bridges to those who oppose our views.

### **We need to minister to those who are trapped.**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

John 8:31-36

*“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 6:11, nasb).

*“So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free’”*  
(John 8:31-32, nasb).

And there is a blood stained cross that stands as a reminder that Jesus dies for homosexuals, just as he died for heterosexuals. For you see in this room, there is no one who is better than anyone else. We are a colossal collection of moral failures. You are surrounded by people who blew it this week with gossip, and others who gave in to greed, or others who have lusted, others have exposed themselves to pornography, others are guilty of being self-righteous, others possibly have committed adultery, but you need to know something about us. We are committed to confessing our sins to a holy and loving God, and we are striving to resist sin by the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

We must learn how to balance the truth with love and grace just as our Savior Jesus did.

Speak the truth. Speak the truth. But speak it with love. Speak it with grace. But for heaven’s sake speak the truth!

# Appendix

Text: Genesis 1:26-27, 2:18, 20b-24

1. So how did our culture get into this mess?
  - A. National mental health organizations have politicized the issue.
  - B. Academic circles are opposed to an open discussion of this issue.
  - C. The media is deliberately used to sell homosexuality to America as normal.
  - D. Legal actions, well publicized, now threaten organizations holding a traditional opinion.
  - E. Many public schools are adopting curriculum to present homosexuality as normal and some are even encouraging homosexual clubs for students.
    - (1) Biology
    - (2) Psychology
    - (3) Sociology
  
2. So what is the real truth about homosexuality?
  - A. As a matter of biology, homosexuality is not innate, but a choice.
  - B. As a matter of psychology, homosexuality is reversible.
  - C. As a matter of sociology, homosexuality is not normal but a developmental disorder and a perversion of nature.
    - (1) Some believe there may be a genetic predisposition known to exist for homosexuals.
    - (2) Environmental factors contribute to same sex attraction.
      - (a) The child's relationship to mother and father.
      - (b) Sexual activity with other boys.

- (c) Sexual abuse by an adult.
- (d) Pornographic literature.
- (e) Personal decisions made by a person as to their identity.

3. What does the Bible say about homosexuality?

A. God categorically calls homosexuality a sin.

(1) Some Christians categorize homosexuality as a worse sin, than say, adultery.

(2) Some associate orientation or same-sex attraction as an innate condition of homosexuality.

B. How can any Christian after reading these Scriptures come to a different conclusion?

(1) How do you determine right from wrong?

(2) Many people re-interpret the Scriptures conforming to social pressure.

(3) Some argue that Jesus never spoke out against homosexuality, therefore it couldn't be wrong.

(a) Just because nothing is recorded doesn't mean that He didn't address the issue.

(b) Whenever Jesus spoke about marriage, He always spoke about it consisting of a woman and a man. Matthew 19:1-12

(c) Jesus and the Apostles upheld the authority of the Scriptures and used the phrase "that the Scripture may be fulfilled" 27 times when referring to the Old Testament Scriptures. Matthew 5:17-18

D. God's goal for all of His children is to obey Him and live pure lives.

4. How would Jesus respond to a homosexual?

5. How should we respond to homosexuals as followers of Jesus Christ?
  - A. We need to speak the truth. Luke 24:45-48; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16
  - B. We need to speak the truth with love and grace. Colossians 4:6
  - C. We need to minister to those who are trapped. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

# God's Plan for the Gay Agenda

**John MacArthur**

If you've been watching the headlines over the last couple years, you may have noticed the incredible surge of interest in affirming homosexuality. Whether it's at the heart of a religious scandal, political corruption, radical legislation, or the redefinition of marriage, homosexual interests have come to characterize America. That's an indication of the success of the gay agenda. And some Christians, including some national church leaders, have wavered on the issue even recently. But sadly, when people refuse to acknowledge the sinfulness of homosexuality—calling evil good and good evil (Isaiah 5:20)—they do so at the expense of many souls.

How should you respond to the success of the gay agenda? Should you accept the recent trend toward tolerance? Or should you side with those who exclude homosexuals with hostility and disdain?

In reality, the Bible calls for a balance between what some people think are two opposing reactions—condemnation and compassion. Really, the two together are essential elements of biblical love, and that's something the homosexual sinner desperately needs.

Homosexual advocates have been remarkably effective in selling their warped interpretations of passages in Scripture that address homosexuality. When you ask a homosexual what the Bible says about homosexuality—and many of them know—they have digested an interpretation that is not only warped, but also completely irrational. Pro-homosexual arguments from the Bible are nothing but smokescreens—as you come close, you see right through them.

## **God's condemnation of homosexuality is abundantly clear—He opposes it in every age.**

- In the patriarchs (Genesis 19:1-28)
- In the Law of Moses (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13)
- In the Prophets (Ezekiel 16:46-50)
- In the New Testament (Romans 1:18-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Jude 7-8)

Why does God condemn homosexuality? Because it overturns God's fundamental design for human relationships—a design that pictures the complementary relationship between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:22-33).

Why, then, have homosexual interpretations of Scripture been so successful at persuading so many? Simple: people want to be convinced. Since the Bible is so clear about the issue, sinners have had to defy reason and embrace error to quiet their accusing consciences (Romans 2:14-16). As Jesus said, "Men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil" (John 3:19-20).

As a Christian, you must not compromise what the Bible says about homosexuality—ever. No matter how much you desire to be compassionate to the homosexual, your first sympathies belong to the Lord and to the exaltation of His righteousness. Homosexuals stand in defiant rebellion against the will of their Creator who from the beginning "made them male and female" (Matthew 19:4).

Don't allow yourself to be intimidated by homosexual advocates and their futile reasoning—their arguments are without substance. Homosexuals, and those who advocate that sin, are

fundamentally committed to overturning the lordship of Christ in this world. But their rebellion is useless, for the Holy Spirit says, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; cf. Galatians 5:19-21).

### **So, what is God’s response to the homosexual agenda?**

Certain and final judgment. To claim anything else is to compromise the truth of God and deceive those who are perishing.

As you interact with homosexuals and their sympathizers, you must affirm the Bible’s condemnation. You are not trying to bring damnation on the head of homosexuals, you are trying to bring conviction so that they can turn from that sin and embrace the only hope of salvation for all of us sinners—and that’s through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Homosexuals need salvation. They don’t need healing—homosexuality is not a disease. They don’t need therapy—homosexuality is not a psychological condition. Homosexuals need forgiveness, because homosexuality is a sin.

I don’t know how it happened, but a few decades ago someone branded homosexuals with the worst misnomer—“gay.” Gay used to mean happy, but I can assure you, homosexuals are not happy people. They habitually seek happiness by following after destructive pleasures. There is a reason Romans 1:26 calls homosexual desire a “degrading passion.” It is a lust that destroys the physical body, ruins relationships, and brings perpetual suffering to the soul—and its ultimate end is death

(Romans 7:5). Homosexuals are experiencing the judgment of God (Romans 1:24, 26, 28), and thus they are very, very sad.

First Corinthians 6 is very clear about the eternal consequence for those who practice homosexuality—but there's good news. No matter what the sin is, whether homosexuality or anything else, God has provided forgiveness, salvation, and the hope of eternal life to those who repent and embrace the gospel. Right after identifying homosexuals as those who “will not inherit the kingdom of God,” Paul said, “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 6:11).

God's plan for many homosexuals is that they come to salvation. There were former homosexuals in the Corinthian church back in Paul's day, just as there are many former homosexuals today in my church and in faithful churches around the country. With regenerated hearts, they sit in biblical churches throughout the country praising their Savior, along with former fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, thieves, coveters, drunkards, revilers, and swindlers. Remember, such were some of you too.

What should be your response to the homosexual agenda? Make it a biblical response—confront it with the truth of Scripture that condemns homosexuality and promises eternal damnation for all who practice it. What should be your response to the homosexual? Make it a gospel response—confront him with the truth of Scripture that condemns him as a sinner, and point him to the hope of salvation through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Stay faithful to the Lord as you respond to homosexuality by honoring His Word, and leave the results to Him.

# Homosexuality and Happiness

Randy Alcorn

Tony Reinke, a young evangelical thinker who I know and deeply appreciate, has written what I think is an excellent piece on homosexuality, idolatry and happiness. (I've written an endorsement for his delightful book *Lit!: A Christian Guide to Reading Books*.)

Let me introduce Tony's article by saying this. When true happiness is rightly seen as God's desire for human beings, it undercuts the assumptions so often brought to the table by both unbelievers and believers in the "holiness versus happiness" debate. The world is seen to argue for the rightness of whatever makes people happy. Christians then counter with arguments of right and wrong, saying that people should do what is moral, not what makes them happy. The underlying message is that what is moral does not make people happy, and what is immoral does make people happy but should be opposed on moral grounds. But the Bible's ultimate argument is different. True, it says that we sometimes should sacrifice short-term pleasures for long-term good, but that long-term good is inseparable from human happiness. And what is immoral and unholy will NOT ultimately make us happy—rather, it will make us decidedly *unhappy*. Hence, what is morally wrong, including homosexual behavior, is not only wrong, but it is also foolish. For it does not result in happiness, but ultimate unhappiness.

Thanks, Tony, for saying this so well:

**What's At Stake in the Homosexuality Debate**

*By Tony Reinke*

The stakes could not be higher in the homosexuality debate, because — to put it rather bluntly— homosexual activity is a sin that parallels idolatry. The Apostle Paul seems to draw this connection in Ephesians 5:5 and Colossians 3:5, and he certainly does in Romans 1:18–27.

Robert Gagnon, a leading scholar on sexuality in Scripture, says these themes are closely related for Paul because both idolatry and same-sex intercourse equally oppose the designs of the Creator. He sees several strong connections that link Romans 1 to the creation account in Genesis 1–2. In his acclaimed book *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*, Gagnon writes, "Idolatry and homosexual behavior are in some measure parallel (not just successive) phenomena since both are presented as willful suppression of the obvious truth about God and God's design in the natural world."<sup>1</sup>

Pagan idolatry is twisted because it is the act of rejecting the Creator and replacing worship of him with the worship of what he has made. Similarly, homosexual acts are twisted because they reject God's natural design for human sexuality.<sup>2</sup> Thus, homosexuality and idolatry are related. Both are evidence of a twisted distortion of God's design for men and women, both dehumanize men and women, both are rooted in a rejection of the Creator. That is to say, the distortions of idolatry and same-sex intercourse are foremost rooted in a worship disorder (Romans 1:21, 24–25).

### **An Obstacle to the Full Life**

And there isn't a disorder more serious than a worship disorder. The stakes could not be higher for sinners who refuse to honor and thank God for his created design. And when worship disorders spread, and souls hang in the

balance, loving Christians speak up, not with voices of spite or hatred but with voices of love and compassion.

This is a point Gagnon makes:

Without taking into account God's will for holy living, love turns into affirmation of self-degrading and other-degrading conduct. This means that true love of one's neighbor does not embrace every form of consensual behavior. What constitutes an expression of love to one's neighbor depends significantly on how one assesses the benefit or harm of the neighbor's behavior. If indeed homosexual behavior is sin and an obstacle to the fullness of life available in Christ, then the church has an obligation both to protect the church from the debilitating effect of sanctioned immorality and to protect the homosexual for whom more is at stake than the satisfaction of sensual impulses.<sup>3</sup>

Yes. That last sentence is critical.

Homosexual intercourse is an obstacle to fullness in Christ, in fact it is an empty faux-replacement for the good design of the Creator. To seek happiness in homosexual activity is a replacement god, it kicks against the Creator, it is a rejection of the Creator just like idolatry.

### **Opposed to What Kills Joy**

John Piper is right when he says, "God's judgment on homosexual and lesbian relationships is not because he is a killjoy, but because he is opposed to what kills joy."<sup>4</sup> Fullness of joy in Christ is at stake. And fullness of joy will never be found in crossing the wires of God's created intentions. Heterosexual sin and homosexual sin alike are ultimately rooted in a worship disorder, a worship disorder that robs the

soul of joy now and robs the soul of joy eternally. The fullness of joy we all long for is reserved for those sinners who, by God's grace alone, have been healed from this worship disorder, who are rightly oriented with the Creator, and who turn away from selfishness that kicks against the created order.

## High Stakes

The gospel of Jesus Christ offers us victory in our worship disorders. By Christ's death and resurrection and through our union with him, we turn away from the wisdom of our own eyes, we turn from idols, and we turn from what contradicts God's beautiful design. We continue to battle sinful sexual impulses and all sin, and we fight sin together as brothers and sisters in Christ who look forward to a day when all temptations will be gone and we will enjoy eternal pleasures forever in the presence of our Creator (Psalm 16:11). That is why this topic matters, because eternal happiness is ultimately what's at stake in the homosexuality debate.

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<sup>1</sup>Robert A. J. Gagnon, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics* (Abingdon Press, 2001), 286.

<sup>2</sup>"In effect, Paul is saying: Start with the obvious fittedness of human anatomy; when done with that, consider procreative design as a clue; then move to a broad range of interpersonal differences that define maleness and femaleness. These are much better clues to God's will for human sexuality than preexisting, controlling passions — which can be warped by the fall and shaped by socialization factors." [Robert A. J. Gagnon, "Sexuality," in *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible* (Baker Academic, 2005), 745–746.]

<sup>3</sup>Robert A. J. Gagnon, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics* (Abingdon Press, 2001), 34.

<sup>4</sup>John Piper, sermon, "Let Marriage Be Held in Honor Among All" (August 11, 1991).