

Coming Out of Homosexuality Clarity and Compassion for the Struggler

I. Introduction

A. The Lost Sheep

“Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” Lk 15:4-7

B. Fruit of the 1960s Sexual Revolution

- Extra-marital heterosexuality
- Homosexuality
- Homosexual “churches”
- Legalized abortion
- Homosexual activism (began with Stonewall Inn violent protests, June 28, 1969)

C. World’s View Today

- Not a moral issue
- No longer a choice
- In-born / Unchangeable (key issue – most combative over, legal foundation)
- Civil rights issue (strategy is decriminalization/social acceptance/equality)

D. Pain and Trouble

- Disease (sexually transmitted disease, chronic disease, and cancer)
- Physical trauma
- Poor quality of life

II. Unbiblical Answers and Critique

A. Secular Cause Theories (Nature, Nurture, or Combination of both)

1. Nature (cause is said to be biological, in-born)
Secular evidence is against unchangeable in-born theories (i.e., unchangeable “gay gene” example).
 - Homosexual gene not found in two decades of intensive research
 - Identical twins do not share the same homosexual orientation
 - Homosexuality shows up and disappears in family lines
 - Homosexuality is reversible, 1 Cor 6:9-11; 2 Tm 2:22

Scripture disproves unchangeable in-born theories.

- “. . . God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able . . . Therefore, my beloved, flee idolatry.” 1 Cor 10:13, 14
Moral commands of Scripture can be obeyed.
- “. . . and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind . . .” Eph 4:23
God changes lies believed and sinful desires.
- “. . . Male and female he created them.” Gn 1:27; Mt 19:4
People are created by God to be heterosexual.
- “Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified . . .” 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:1; Jn 8:31, 32, 36
People are changed by believing.

2. Nurture (cause is said to be external developmental factors, learned behavior)
Secular “causes” (nurture theories) are actually provocations to sin out of the heart. Secular “causes” = Provocations to sin. Provocation categories are:

- Parental
- Sexual experiences
- Sibling or peer relations
- Verbal and physical abuse
- Heterosexual difficulties
- Affirmation

B. Unbiblical Belief Systems

1. Psychotherapy, Col 2:8; Ps 119:113-118

- Prior to 1973: Cited in DSM* as a mental disorder
- 1973: Removed from DSM as a mental disorder under political pressure
- 1975: Released a public statement as not a mental disorder
- 1994: “Way some of population expresses love and sexuality”**
- Today: “Coming out and gay community activity needed”**
- Tomorrow: ?

*American Psychiatric Association, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*

**American Psychological Association

2. Integrationist therapy

- Too similar to psychotherapy (training and theories)
- Sufficiency of Scripture is not believed
- Polluted nature or idolatry is minimized or ignored as the cause (focus of therapy is the nurture theories)

3. Biblical revisionism

- Overarching claims of scholar-activists
“Modern homosexuality”; “loving and committed” relationships; “natural homosexual orientation”; churches are wrong; motive is to maintain male dominance; other O.T. Scriptures no longer binding, so why homosexuality?
- Example 1: Destruction of Sodom, Gn 19:1-29
Biblical revisionism: Sin is lack of hospitality because this was culturally imperative in the Ancient Near East; passage is not sexual in nature; passage prohibits rape only; pride and neglecting the poor are the sins condemned based on Ezekiel 16:49.
Historical interpretation: The Hebrew word *yada*’ translated “have relations with them” is used again in the same story in an unambiguous sexual context, Gn 19:5, 8; the men’s sexual lust was homosexual lust, Gn 19:8; Ezekiel describes prosperity leading to pride resulting in “abominations,” Ez 16:44-50; cf 2 Chr 26:16; Peter describes an open pattern of sexual immorality and not rape or inhospitality, 2 Pt 2:6-10; Jude describes sexual immorality worthy of eternal judgment, Jude 7.
- Example 2: Marriage as taught by Jesus
Biblical revisionism: Jesus did not condemn homosexuality in the N.T.; He was silent on the subject; Jesus brought a “new commandment” based on love, Jn 13:34, 35.
Historical interpretation: Jesus taught from creation a divinely ordered institution of marriage, Gn 1-2; He upheld heterosexuality and life-long commitment for marriage, Mt 5:27, 28; 19:4-6, 9; Mk 10:5-9; Jesus was love and truth, Jn 1:14, 8:31, 32, 14:6; Jesus is the Creator of the male and female anatomies and biblical marriage, Jn 1:3.

4. Affirming “church”

- Embraces being Christian and an active homosexual
- Teaches biblical revisionism of homosexual passages
- Liberal churches [i.e., United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ (UCC), Episcopal Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America]
- Homosexual denominations (i.e., Metropolitan Community Churches)
- Range of acceptance in churches (from ignoring lifestyle, membership, clergy, to marriage)

Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC)

- Church denomination and international movement for “Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons”
- Founded in 1968 by Troy Perry in Los Angeles
- Claim 43,000 attendees, 300 congregations, and 22 countries (as of 2011)

San Diego MCC

- Another gospel preached, Mk 1:14, 15; Gal 1:6-9
Love and Acceptance preached vs. Repentance and Faith
- Theme of unconditional acceptance as a member
- Promotion of homosexual marriage from the beginning of movement
- Altering of God's gender references in Scripture
"Father" is changed to "parent," "I am Israel's parent," Jer 31:9c
- Lord's Supper open to all regardless of faith or being under church discipline

III. Biblical Answers

A. How to Know Right and Wrong (determined solely by God)

1. God-given conscience
 - All people know homosexuality is wrong in their conscience, Rom 2:14-15a.
 - People will be judged for violating their conscience, Rom 2:15b-16.
2. God's created design
 - By observing human anatomies all people know it is a male-female design.
 - Male-female procreation points to heterosexuality as normative.
3. God's Word
 - Completes knowledge of right and wrong, Gn 1:27, 28; 2:24, 25; Mt 19:4-6.
 - Sense of sin becomes violations of God's law, Ex 20:14; Lv 18:22; Rom 1:25-27; 1 Tm 1:8-11.
 - Fear of punishment becomes specific, Rom 1:18, 32; 1 Cor 6:9, 10.

B. Cause of Homosexuality

1. Cause of homosexuality is sin; guilty and polluted nature (original sin) results in same-sex idolatry (exchanging truth and worship of God for idols).
2. Direct cause is same-sex idolatry, Rom 1:25-27a
3. Penalty for same-sex idolatry is homosexuality, Rom 1:26a, 27b
(God justly lets people experience what they desire)
4. There can be a predisposition to unnatural homosexual desire and differing sinful predispositions in everyone, Jam 1:14
 - Desire stems from a polluted nature, Ps 51:5; Rom 5:12-19, Eph 2:3
 - No one should trust innate desires or be led by desires, Mk 7:21-23; Jam 1:15
 - Jesus was provoked by man and Satan but did not sin, Mt 4:1-11; 1 Jn 3:5
(it is not provocation that causes sin but the polluted nature)
 - Unnatural homosexual desire should remind a person that we are a sinful people

C. Unassailable Teaching of Scripture is Heterosexual Marriage

1. Creation ordinance, Gn 1-2; Mt 19:4, 5
 - God called marriage between a man and woman “very good,” Gn 1:31
 - It was from the beginning; therefore, it remains in effect unless God alone changes it in the N.T., Gn 2; Mt 19:4, 5
 - Principal in which all other passages of Scripture are interpreted
2. Genesis to Revelation teaches heterosexual marriage, Gn 2:24; Rv 19:7
(biblical revisionists point to the trees—passages on homosexuality, but they do not see the forest—all passages on marriage throughout the Bible)

IV. Biblical Counsel

A. Process of Change

1. Redemption from worshiper of idols to a worshiper of God, Is 55:1-3; Jn 3:3; 2 Cor 5:14, 15; Eph 2:1-9; 1 Thes 1:9; Jam 1:18.
2. May be unclear if professing Christian is a true believer (gospel to be the context throughout the counsel given), Jude 22, 23.
3. Progressive redemption (biblical structure to the change process), 2 Tm 3:16
 - Teaching of truth, Ps 119; Acts 20:20; Rom 15:14; Eph 4:11-13; Col 1:28
 - Reproof of sin (expose the polluted nature, truth suppressed/lies believed, ruling idolatrous desires, and choices/behavior), 2 Sm 1:7, 8; Acts 2:36-40; Gal 6:1, 2; Heb 4:12

Homosexuality is primarily relationship idolatry. Draw out of the struggler additional specific and unique idolatrous desires such as:

- Same-sex affirmation/admiration/acceptance/affection
- Sexual pleasure
- Same-sex body/body part
- Friendship/intimacy
- Independence (from God, Bible, parents, authority)
- Being in control
- Hurt-free life
- Happiness
- Physical appearance
- Opposite-sex gender identity
- Hatred of opposite sex
- Life cause (activism)

- Correction to truth (repentance and faith), Mk 1:14, 15
Repentance with knowledge takes place. A most basic fruit of repentance is a sincere confession, 1 Jn 1:8-10. All homosexual sin and associated sins need to be confessed to God and to others involved, Ps 51:4. Repentance of polluted nature and ruling idolatry is missing from the four unbiblical belief systems discussed above.
Faith believes the love of God is better and this replaces the love of all other relationships, Lk 14:26; 2 Cor 5:14, 15, 1 Jn 4:19. Believing the truth about homosexual sin, provocation to sin, and redemption from sin always results in worship of God.
 - Training in righteousness (biblical and disciplined living broadly taught), Acts 20:31, 32; 1 Tm 4:6-8; 1 Pt 2:1-3
- B. Counsel for Family and Friendships (regarding a friend, minor child, adult child out of the home, or parent leaving family)
1. Remember the gospel in own life, Rom 5:6-10
 2. Turn to God and His Word, Ps 56:3, 4; Prv 16:20; Jn 14:15; Jam 1:5-8
 3. Speak truth with love, Eph 4:15
 - No truth (weak message or no message, no need to change)
 - No love (harsh, not listened to, perceived as hateful)
 4. Type of relationship
 - Actively love, Mt 5:43-48; Jn 3:16; 1 Cor 13:1-7; Gal 2:20
 - Time together not required to revolved around speaking truth, Prv 15:23
 - Evangelistic relationship and genuinely enjoy company
 - Cannot be as close as with a believer, 2 Cor 6:14
 5. Be an example of struggling against own sin and pursuing Jesus
 6. Loving and redemptive church discipline, Mt 18:12-22
 - If church member and unrepentant (stopped struggling against sin)
 - Grace of the church removed, but not the grace of the family
 7. Be watchful and prayerful about potential harm done within family (increased divorce, violence, abandoning faith; effects immediate and extended family)
 8. Thank God in all things (1 Thes 5:18)
 - For revealing the true heart
 - For remaining in control of each circumstance

V. David's Story

Recommended Resources

1. *Straight & Narrow? Clarity & Compassion in the Homosexuality Debate*, Thomas Schmidt
2. Setting Captives Free Ministry, 60-day online course, "Door of Hope"
www.settingcaptivesfree.com
3. "Teenagers and Homosexuality: An Aid For Parents," Ben Marshall, 2007 thesis
<http://www.tren.com/e-docs/search.cfm>
4. *Help! My Teen is Gay*, Ben Marshall, Day One Publications, 2011 booklet