



Church Struggle

and

Change.

Same Sex Relationships.

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Church Struggles and Change.

TEACH IT, DON'T DEMAND IT

Thank you for visiting this topic, my aim in this study is to dispel some of the antipathy and hostility there is toward those who love Christ, but through no fault of their own, have been born with a natural attraction toward those of the same sex gender or have this attraction, because of some medical, biological or genetic influence.

CHURCH STRUGGLE

Over years of church history, the church has constantly struggled with various issues, and different generations have at various times changed and corrected particular areas of church behaviour and teaching as the following list shows:

- The Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great and a selected group of Bishops in 325 AD., at the Council of Nicaea introduced many false doctrines into the Christian faith, which over the following years have mostly been corrected.
- The Catholic Church tried to crush the reformation and in turn many Lutherans rejected the Anabaptist movement.
- In the mid 1700's the Anabaptist (Baptists) persecuted the Methodists.
- The church splintered again in the 1800's over the issue of slavery and then again with the advent of the Holiness movement and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Azusa Street), these examples are only a few of the many.

Throughout Christian history there are many stories of certain Christian believers within the global community of the Christian faith being ostracized and maligned by other church groups in the same global Christian community.

- It was believed sinful and evil for a white person to marry a black person.
- It was believed that a black man or woman was so unacceptable to God, they weren't permitted to enter the church.
- It was believed that children born out of wedlock were bastards and therefore had no hope of salvation.
- It was believed that woman who had sex before marriage were so sinful, they were not to be given any part in church fellowship.

Even today the global church is divided on a variety of doctrines, each one believing they are the only ones that have the truth and that they are the only true church, but the divisions and confusion are made even worse, because within each Christians own local religious institution or organization there are splits and divisions, because one group holds a different view of the Bible to the other. These facts show that the following group of people who through no fault of their own, have been born with a natural attraction to the same sex, or for some biological or genetic influence at a very early age (probably by age five) have a very real sexual orientation deeply-rooted and imbedded in their nature, that is naturally attracted toward people of the same sex gender, which is not only their natural state of being, but is also unchangeable, because it is the natural disposition of the person, and therefore they cannot be sexually attracted to a person of the opposite sex, for such a thing would be repulsive and repugnant to them are not the first group to be rejected by the church.

CHANGE, DIVISION AND CONTENTION

Over the past hundred years there has been waves of change in the church, with each wave some believers struggle, some resist, some stick close to what is commonly known, while some embrace the change. Naturally change causes strife, contention and division within the congregation and the leadership. During such difficult times of change, many who are willing to accept it often feel intimidated and therefore remain silent for fear of rejection, others who do openly support the change are often coerced by the heads and authorities of the church or religious institution or organization to their viewpoint and in some cases persecuted or asked to leave the church. Often a great majority of people pass judgment on change without knowing all the facts (whether secular or Christian), they prejudge according to their preconceived ideas, without examine all the pros and cons with an open mind concerning the change.

Following are six reasons for this:

1. It takes courage to step out of one's own comfort zone and question what one has been taught, especially if it's something they have believed for many years.
2. Fear to face the fact they could be wrong, prevents some from making any effort to even entertain the idea of looking at something new.
3. Some can't be bothered setting the time aside to look at both sides of the information available.
4. Others are prejudice, meaning they have formed an unfavourable opinion beforehand concerning any change
5. Some have established in their mind inaccurate stereotypes, based on irrational feelings, or insufficient knowledge, or upon what others say, without questioning whether what they are hearing is correct or not.
6. Others form an opinion based on preconceived ideas, much like the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priest the Pharisees and the scribes) that had preconceived ideas concerning the Messiah, believing he would lead a great army and liberate Israel from their Roman oppressors and set them up as the rightful leaders of God's new Kingdom. They were not willing to accept a Messiah that didn't fit their preconceived idea that they had established in their mind.
7. Some being fully aware that if they accept the change, it would mean letting go of what they have spent their lifetime establishing, such as their religious empire, their position in church, their doctrine and teaching or their popularity and therefore pride, or fear or greed prevents them from even considering the idea of change.

PONDER FOR A MOMENT

When the early church began to grow there were Gentiles, Jews and Samaritans hearing the Gospel and accepting the Lord Jesus Christ, imagine the tremendous changes taking place in the church during this era, long standing cultural prejudices existed between all three groups. The church today, like the early church faces a similar difficulty, concerning men and woman who love the Lord Jesus Christ, are law abiding citizens and show kindness to others, are not breaking any laws, who are living true to the natural romantic sexual attraction they have toward people of the same sex gender, that through no fault of their own, they have been born with, or for some medical, biological or genetic reason developed at a very early age (probably by age five) (i.e., homosexuals and lesbians), which raises the following three questions:

1. What is the established traditional church to do when faced with the Gay Christian movement and their churches and members who love the Lord Jesus Christ, believe the Gospel and fulfill the Lord's commandment, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31) meaning do good to others and not harm.
2. How should the established church deal with this unique group of believers?
3. What should the leaders of the established church do with their harsh doctrine that without hesitation condemns these believers to eternal damnation?

How should the church handle the homosexual lifestyle that seems unnatural and is offensive to many? Should they require them to be celibate for their entire life or realize that they are being true to their nature and instead expect them to live according to the same standards Christian married couples are to live by. If they were welcomed into their church how could it be done without alienating much of their existing congregation?

THE SILENCE OF THE BIBLE

The Bible is silent in that it does not fully address the topic and Jesus and the prophets never talked about men and women who have:

- Been born with an orientation and natural disposition toward people of the same sex
- Are in a loving and caring relationship, devoted to God and the Lord Jesus Christ
- Are not breaking any laws and are showing kindness to others.
- Are being true to their own nature and sexual orientation.

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Concerning this group of people, the Scriptures seem to be silent, much like it is silent on masturbation, yet psychologists say that a great percentage of men and woman of all ages commonly practice it sometime during their life, and many into their older years, yet the Bible remains silent. With these facts in mind, it seems reasonable to suppose that whenever the Bible does condemn same sex relationships it is referring to heterosexuals who chose to be sexually active with each other. Added to this, those that are condemned are always pictured in the context of those who deny God are violent and rebellious and in some verses worship idols, which hardly fits same sex couples that are living true to their nature and sexual orientation in a committed loving relationship who love the Lord Jesus Christ and do good. With these facts in mind, it seems reasonable to suppose that whenever the Bible does condemn same sex relationships it is referring to heterosexuals who chose to be sexually active with each other. Added to this, they are always pictured in the context of those who deny God are violent and rebellious and in many context worship idols, which hardly fits same sex couples that are living true to their nature and sexual orientation in a committed loving relationship and who love the Lord Jesus Christ and do good.

THE MEANING OF HOMOSEXUAL

The English word homosexual is a compound word made from the Greek word homo, meaning "the same", and the Latin term sexualis, meaning sex. The complete word refers to a person who is sexually attracted to people of their own sex. Homosexuality is an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, sexual attraction between members of the same sex gender, it also refers to a person's sense of identity. The most common terms for homosexual people are lesbian for females and gay for males,

but gay also commonly refers to both homosexual females and males. Scientists do not know what determines an individual's sexual orientation, but they theorize that it is caused by a complex interplay of genetic, hormone and environmental influences and do not view it as a choice, although no single theory on the cause of sexual orientation has yet gained widespread support, the majority of scientists favour biologically based theories. There is insufficient evidence to support the use of psychological interventions to change sexual orientation. While some people believe that homosexual activity is unnatural, scientific research shows that it is a normal and natural variation in human sexuality amongst a small percentage of the population.

THE BIBLE AND THE WORD HOMOSEXUAL

The word homosexual did not exist when the Bible was written, during these ancient years the people knew nothing of people being born with a natural attraction to another person of their own gender, which means, the focus would be upon heterosexuals having sex with another person of the same sex. This is not hard to understand when it is remembered, that during earlier generations a person born disfigured, disable, blind or deaf, or suffered some type of mental or physical illness that the people did not understand, that we can heal today, was believed to be possessed by demons and many were banned from the community, so it is hardly likely they would know anything about a man or a woman being born with a natural attraction to the same sex, or for some medical, biological or genetic influence at a very early age (probably by age five) have a very real sexual orientation deeply-rooted and imbedded in their nature, that is naturally attracted toward people of the same sex gender.

Added to this, condemning a heterosexual person for sexually lying with a person of their own gender, is justifiable, since they are acting contrary to their natural sexual orientation. In contrast to this, for a genuine homosexual and lesbian person, to hook up with a person of the opposite sex, would be extremely repulsive, for them, because they would be acting against their natural nature. With these facts in mind, is it right to cast out of the church and condemn to eternal damnation, those who are living true to their own nature, and sexual orientation, in a committed loving caring relationship, when they are not breaking any laws and are showing kindness to others and by faith believe in and are devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ.

A NATURAL COURT OF LAW

In a natural court of law a person must be proved guilty beyond any shadow of doubt, before they are sentenced and condemned, based upon this principle the question we must all ask ourselves (including me) is: "If, in my heart I judge and condemn these people to eternal damnation, am I 100% certain I am making a right judgment." If we are not 100% certain, we may be in danger of bringing judgement upon ourselves," especially when it is taken into account that we all have dwelling within our own fallen bodies, sinful aberrations and dysfunctions, and not one of us can stand before Christ and the Holiness of God and boast we are without sin and not one of us is saved without the washing and cleansing power of Christ's blood and God's abundant grace. Perhaps a better Christian response would be to show compassion, kindness and grace and move toward healing them from the shame and hurt of rejection, that harsh traditional Christian teaching has brought upon them and the implication that they are not only the worst of all sinners, but are also worthless before God and cannot be saved, while they remain committed to the person they love. For further information concerning these verses, see the title:

- Defile themselves with Mankind (1 Timothy 1:9-10).

- Abusers of Themselves (1Cor 6:9).

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A NATURALLY OCCURRING PHENOMENON

When it is considered that homosexuals and Lesbians from their youth onward go through:

- Rejection in almost every way possible of much of society and many of their own families and friends.
- Ridicule and mockery during their school years, at work and on into adulthood.
- Brutal physical abuse and mental torment, so much so that it drives many to suicide.

It is surprising that there are any gay people at all. For someone to come out the other end of the process still desiring a mate of their own sex is truly amazing! Surely if it was as simple as choosing to make a different choice, they would have certainly done so, and avoided all the pain, but they remain as the proverbial fish swimming upstream. In spite of the obstacles throughout history and across all racial and cultural lines. There has always been a small minority of every population whose sexual orientation is homosexual. How can this be? It can only be because homosexuality is a naturally occurring phenomenon in nature for some people.

CONSIDER FOR A MOMENT

When we reject and condemn to eternal damnation those who are in a caring committed same sex relationship; love the Lord Jesus Christ; do good and are not breaking any laws, because they, through no fault of their own, have been born with a natural attraction to the same sex, or for some biological or genetic influence at a very early age (probably by age five) have a very real sexual orientation deeply-rooted and imbedded in their nature, that is naturally attracted toward people of the same sex gender, which is not only their natural state of being, but is also unchangeable, because it is the natural disposition of the person, and therefore they cannot be sexually attracted to a person of the opposite sex, for such a thing would be repulsive and repugnant to them, we may be in danger of bringing judgment on ourselves. Especially since we all have dwelling within our fallen corrupted bodies our own particular sinful aberrations and dysfunctions so not one of us can stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holiness of God and claim we are free of sin and not one of us could be saved without the washing and cleansing power of Christ's blood and God's abundant grace.

I, like the Jews of old who had to work their way through adopting Gentiles into their midst and work out-together what that meant for each group, still have certain questions that I am working through myself and for that reason my aim in these articles is not to tell anyone what they should or should not believe. The aim is to simply present information that hopefully will help the reader come to their own conclusion, especially those who have been influenced to dehumanize homosexuals and lesbians by the collective consciousness of their generation (as I was), or who have been influenced by certain religious leaders to harshly judge, reject and condemn everyone to eternal damnation who is in a same sex relationship.