

Homosexuality

Objective

To discuss homosexuality and discredit many of the arguments used to promote it as an "alternative lifestyle"

References

1. Focus on the Family website
2. Southern US Diocese of Coptic Orthodox Church website
<http://www.traditioninaction.org/HotTopics/a02rStatistics.html>
3. <http://www.citizenlink.com/2010/06/responding-to-pro-gay-social-arguments-homosexuality-is-inborn/>
4. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Promiscuity>

Scripture Verse

"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter" (Isaiah 5:20)

Lesson Outlines

- To be labeled intolerant is the worst insult today coupled with being dogmatic
- Particularly regarding the topic of homosexuality if a person stands against the lifestyle, he is labeled a bigot, intolerant, ignorant, unsophisticated or even in some cases, anti Christian
- Considering this last label, let's first look at what the Bible has to say before we decide what our position should be:
 - Leviticus 18:22 "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It *is* an abomination."
 - Leviticus 20:13 "If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood *shall be* upon them."
 - 1 King 14:24 "And there were also perverted persons in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel." Hebrew *qadesh*, that is, one practicing sodomy and prostitution in religious rituals
 - Romans 1:26-32 "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.
And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving,

unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” (Note: this is not the same thing as saying a person who struggles with same sex attraction has lower value in the eyes of God. The focus is on the behavior NOT the person)

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 “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 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 and by the Spirit of our God” (verse 11 shows repentance).
- 1 Timothy 1:10 “knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.”
- Clearly, the scriptural take is that this behavior is sinful and contrary to God's design so how did we get here? Our culture is now calling something good what God calls evil. We, as children of God, need to discern where this same sex acceptance is coming from and consider facts-- for God's "people are destroyed for lack of knowledge".
- Let's look at some events that have paved the way for where we are today:
 - Before the early 1900s, society considered homosexuality sinful, transgressing behavior and was considered criminal (sodomy laws) and evil by the Church.
 - By the late 1900s, homosexuality was redefined as a pathological condition, a disease which took some of the stigma away from the behavior and elevated it to a position of pity.
 - Then in the 1950s, scientific and political forces converged. Alfred Kinsey with the backing of John D. Rockefeller's empire marketed the Kinsey Report- a study done on the sexual habits of Americans.
 - One of the findings in this "report" was that 10% of the population identified as homosexual.
 - In 1963 the New York Academy of Medicine Committee on Public Health, restated that not only was homosexuality a disease (disorder), "some homosexuals have gone beyond the plane of defensiveness and now argue that deviancy is a 'desirable, noble, preferable way of life.'" In 1970, it was estimated that 84% of Americans agreed homosexuality was a "social corruption." In fact, far from homosexuality being considered just a social aberration, it was still officially defined by the American Psychiatric Association as a mental disorder.
 - Homosexual activists reasoned that if the influential American Psychiatric Association (APA) were to redefine homosexuality, other professional guilds (like the several times larger American Psychological Association) and then the rest would follow

- When the APA leadership finally capitulated and agreed to allow the membership to consider the removal of homosexuality as a disorder, a mass mailing to 30,000 members by the pro-homosexual faction encouraged all members to agree to the change. With only one-third responding, the resolution was passed.
- They agreed to change from referring to it as a disorder to merely "a condition"—as neutral as left-handedness. The much larger American Psychological Association followed suit two years later.
- What was not known at the time was that the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) played a central, though secretive, role both financially and strategically. The mailing by the pro-homosexual faction to the 30,000 APA members encouraging members to vote yes was apparently paid for by funds raised from a letter sent to NGTF's membership.
- "In February 1988, a 'war conference' of 175 leading gay activists, representing organizations from across the land, convened in Warrenton, Virginia, (near Washington, D.C.) to establish a four-point agenda for the gay movement."
- After that meeting, Harvard-trained social scientists and homosexual activists Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen wrote a homosexual manifesto that proposed "[d]ismissing the movement's outworn techniques in favor of carefully calculated public relations propaganda . . . lay[ing] groundwork for the next stage of the gay revolution, and its ultimate victory over bigotry."
- "Any society that flatly denies the fact that one or two citizens in every ten have strong homosexual interests, and structures its laws and values around this denial, is, to this extent, seriously ill."
- Driven by a worldview of victimization, the need for revolution and the establishment of a cultural identity, their strategy was unabashed and blunt: manipulate and control public discourse in order to unite and legitimate one group even at the expense of others. The war goal was to force acceptance of homosexual culture into the mainstream, to silence opposition, and ultimately to convert American society.
- In line with this thinking was the foundation for the renaming of GRID-- Gay Related Immune Disorder to what is now only known of as AIDS.
- The first part of any campaign (and make no mistake, this is a campaign) is to establish a favorable climate for your message so that the communicator can influence the future decision without even appearing to be persuading. By the early nineties, this groundwork was laid.
- Since that time, we have been inundated with pro gay media advertising subtly that accepting gay lifestyle puts one in the company of the happy, educated, elite, artistic, stylish, adored, cool, etc. We have seen this through the likes of : Roseanne, Friends, Boy meets Boy, Queer Eye for the Straight Guy, Amazing Race, Survivor, Real World, Southpark, American Dad, Saturday Night Live, The Truth About Alex, Melrose Place, Gossip Girl, Glee, Sex and the City, Will and Grace and House just to name a few.

➤ Then, we get bombarded with the arguments which on the surface may seem challenging to our position

1. 10% of the population is gay-- how can we marginalize such a number of people?
2. Homosexuality is inborn not chosen and therefore cannot be wrong
3. Jesus said nothing about Homosexuality
4. I am a faithful Christian with evidence of the Spirit in my life, how can that be if homosexuality is wrong?
5. Homosexuality is equal to heterosexuality

➤ Let's look at each one of these arguments in detail

1. 10% of the population is gay-- how can we marginalize such a number of people?

- First, Kinsey's data was not taken from a population accurately representing American men. Dr. Judith Reisman, in her book *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud: The Indoctrination of a People* has soundly discredited Kinsey's conclusions and methods. One of her important findings was that 25 percent of the men he surveyed were prisoners, many of whom were sex offenders.
- Second, subsequent studies have disproved the 10 percent claim. *USA Today* reported on April 15, 1993, a new survey of 3,321 American men indicating 2.3 percent of them had engaged in homosexual behavior within the previous 10 years; only 1.1 percent reported being exclusively homosexual. This was only the latest in a series of studies proving Kinsey wrong.
- In terms of marginalization, let's consider the following statistics:
The average yearly income of a homosexual is \$55,430.00 (most of which is disposable because no children to take care of!). The average of the general population is \$32,144.00. The average of blacks is \$12,166.00.
59.6% of homosexuals are college graduates. 18.0% of the general population are college graduates.
49.0% of homosexuals hold professional/managerial positions. 15.9% of the general population hold such positions. The Bible says that these well educated people while "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:22).

2. Homosexuality is inborn, not chosen and can therefore NOT be wrong

- This is commonly supported by 2 studies; one by Simon LeVay who did a study examining the brains of 41 cadavers (19 homo men, 16 hetero men and 6 hetero women). He compared a part of the anterior hypothalamus. He concluded that brains of those who identified as homosexual were more like women brains than brains of those who identified as heterosexual (because this part smaller). Problem with this study:
- On the surface it appears all of LeVay's homosexual subjects had smaller INAH3's than his heterosexual ones (the **INAH 3** is the third interstitial nucleus of the anterior hypothalamus. Part of the sexually dimorphic nucleus, the INAH 3 is significantly larger in males than in females irrespective of age); in fact, three of the homosexual subjects actually had larger INAH3's than the heterosexuals. Additionally, three of the heterosexual subjects had smaller INAH3's than the average homosexual subject. Thus, six of LeVay's 35 male subjects (17 percent of his total study group) contradicted his own theory.

- It is unclear whether brain structure affects behavior or behavior affects brain structure. Dr. Kenneth Klivington, also of the SALK Institute, points out that neurons can change in response to experience.
- *Scientific American* sums up the reason many professionals approach the INAH3 theory with caution: “LeVay’s study has yet to be fully replicated by another researcher.”
 - The other study commonly cited by same sex proponents is a twin study conducted by psychologist Michael Bailey of Northwestern University (a gay rights advocate) and psychiatrist Richard Pillard of Boston University School of Medicine compared sets of identical male twins to fraternal twins (whose genetic ties are less close). In each set, at least one twin was homosexual. They found that, among the identical twins, 52 percent were both homosexual, as opposed to the fraternal twins, among whom only 22 percent shared a homosexual orientation. Pillard and Bailey suggested the higher incidence of shared homosexuality among identical twins meant homosexuality was genetic in origin.
- The findings actually indicate that something besides genes must account for homosexuality. If 48 percent of identical twins, who are closely linked genetically, do NOT share the same sexual orientation, then genetics alone CANNOT account for homosexuality. Bailey admitted as much by stating, “There must be something in the environment to yield the discordant twins.”
- Second, all of the twins Pillard and Bailey studied were raised in the same household. If the sets of twins in which both brothers were homosexual were raised in separate homes, it might be easier to believe genes played a role in their sexual development. But since they were all raised in the same households, it is impossible to know what effect environment played, and what effect, if any, genes played. Dr. Fausto-Sterling summarized the problem: “In order for such a study to be at all meaningful, you’d have to look at twins raised apart.”
- A later study on twins yielded results different from Pillard and Bailey’s. In March of 1992, *The British Journal of Psychiatry* published a report on homosexuals who are twins (both fraternal and identical) and found that only 20 percent of the homosexual twins had a gay co-twin, leading the researchers to conclude that “genetic factors are an insufficient explanation of the development of sexual orientation.”
- In 1993, Dr. Dean Hamer of the National Cancer Institute studied 40 pairs of non-identical gay brothers and claimed that 33 of the pairs had inherited the same X-linked genetic markers, thus indicating a genetic cause for homosexuality
 - Similar to LeVay’s study, Hamer’s results have yet to be replicated.
 - A later, similar study actually contradicted Hamer’s conclusions. George Ebers of the University of Western Ontario examined 52 pairs of gay brothers, and found “no evidence for a linkage of homosexuality to markers on the X-chromosome or elsewhere.” Ebers also, with an associate, studied 400 families with one or more homosexual males, and found “no evidence for the X-linked, mother-to-son transmission posited by Hamer.” Again, like Pillard and Bailey’s earlier work, a later study similar to Hamer’s yielded clearly different results.

3. Homosexuality is inborn, not chosen and can therefore NOT be wrong (This argument actually is illogical; assuming inborn means normal or morally acceptable)

- First, “inborn” and “normal” are not necessarily the same. Even if homosexuality is someday proven to be inborn, inborn does not necessarily mean normal. Any number of defects or handicaps, for example, may be inborn, but we’d hardly call them normal for that reason alone. Why should we be compelled to call homosexuality normal, just because it may be inborn?
- Second, inborn tendencies towards certain behaviors (like homosexuality) do not make those behaviors moral. Studies in the past fifteen years indicate a variety of behaviors may have their roots in genetics or biology. In 1983 the former Director of the National Council on Alcoholism reported on a number of chemical events that can produce alcoholism; in 1991, the City of Hope Medical Center found a certain gene present in 77 percent of their alcoholic patients. Obesity and violent behavior are now thought to be genetically influenced, and even infidelity, according to research reported in *Time*, may be in our genes! Surely we’re not going to say that obesity, violence, alcoholism and adultery are legitimate because they were inherited. Whether inborn or acquired, homosexuality is still, like all sexual contact apart from marriage, immoral.
- Third, we are a fallen race, born in sin. Scripture teaches we inherited a corrupt sin nature affecting us physically and spiritually (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12). We were born spiritually dead (John 3:5-6) and physically imperfect (1 Corinthians 15:1-54). We cannot assume, then, that because something is inborn, it is also God-ordained. There are mental, psychological, physical and sexual aspects of our being that God never intended us to have. “Inborn,” in short, does not mean “divinely sanctioned.”
- For the sake of argument, let's say that homosexuality is inborn and the person has no choice. Then is God not fair by calling it sin? According to the Orthodox Church not all sins are willful and voluntary, and not all acts of sin are the conscious fault of those who do them; at least not at first. A genetic predisposition to any adverse trait does not excuse the person of its consequences. Consider the following: we know that a genetic tendency to be short-tempered or violent exists and in extreme cases, can manifest in wife-beatings and serial killings. Because of the harm inflicted on others, society is unanimously intolerant to these behaviors and has established clear laws and penalties against offenders. Clearly then, genetic links do not excuse people from the consequences of the law. The standard is purity whether the attraction is same sex or opposite sex. With God all things are possible and bringing our sex drive in line with Him is certainly feasible with persistent prayer, fasting and submission of our will to God's.

4. Jesus said nothing about homosexuality

- Troy Perry (along with other proponents of homosexuality) makes much of this argument based on silence: “As for the question, ‘What did Jesus say about homosexuality?’ The answer is simple. Jesus said nothing. Not one thing. Nothing! Jesus was more interested in love.”
- All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. The same Spirit inspiring the authors of the gospels also inspired the men who wrote the rest of the Bible. The gospels

are not more authoritative than those books of the Bible that condemn homosexual behavior.

- The gospels are not comprehensive. Some of the Bible's most important teachings – the explanation of spiritual gifts, the Priesthood of Christ, the doctrine of man's old and new nature – appear in other books of the Bible. Would anyone say these doctrines are unimportant because they were not mentioned by Jesus? Jesus also didn't address wife beating or incest so does that mean they are ok too?
- Jesus clearly referred to heterosexuality as a standard. He specifically described God's created intent for human sexuality: "But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate" (Matt. 19: 1-8; Mk. 10:6-9).

5. I am a faithful Christian with evidence of the Spirit in my life, how can that be if homosexuality is wrong?

- The fact that a Christian is sinning — even if he does not realize it — does not automatically nullify his salvation (process). But neither does his being a Christian legitimize his sin. A Christian may, indeed, be openly homosexual; that is not proof that homosexuality and Christianity are compatible. In fact, a Christian may be openly sinning; that is not proof sin and Christianity are compatible, either.
- Ananias and Sapphira, a husband and wife mentioned in Acts 5, were evidently believers. Yet their sin of hypocrisy (pretending to give more money to the church than they actually did) cost them their lives. They were Christians, and they were in serious error. Their error did not mean they were not Christian; their Christianity did not legitimize their error.
- We may argue that if anyone continues in sin, they risk hardening their heart toward God, or reaping corruption. But we cannot see inside their soul to determine how hardened or deceived they may be. No matter how proud, confident or loved by God a person is, he can be walking in darkness without knowing it.

6. Homosexuality is equal to heterosexuality and is an equally healthy lifestyle

- 60 percent of male homosexuals had more than 250 lifetime sexual partners, and 28 percent of male homosexuals had more than 1,000 lifetime sexual partners. Another startling fact is that 79 percent admitted that more than half of their sexual partners were strangers. Heterosexual men: 55% had 2-20, and 25% had 20 or more.
- Gay teens are 2 to 3 times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers. 50% of all successful suicides can be attributed to homosexuals
- Depending on the city, 39-59% of homosexuals are infected with intestinal parasites like worms, flukes and amoebae, which is common in filthy third world countries.
- The median age of death of lesbians is 45 (only 24% live past age 65). The median age of death of a married heterosexual woman is 79.

- The median age of death of homosexuals is 42 (only 9% live past age 65). This drops to 39 if the cause of death is AIDS. The median age of death of a married heterosexual man is 75.

Conclusion

As we have seen, the homosexual lifestyle is against the ordinances of God and the arguments put forth to support it are lacking both in logic and fact. As children of God, we are to love what He loves and hate what He hates-- this is the SIN not the person. We should also be mindful of the admonition given in Isaiah 5:20 "*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter*" (Isaiah 5:20). Remember, any dead fish can go with the flow but it takes a living fish to swim against the current. Know the truth, live it and don't compromise for the gaining of the world's acceptance.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. We may know many people who love a homosexual lifestyle, what should our behavior be towards them?

Church Father References:

The Apostolic Constitutions compiled in c. 390 state, "The sin of Sodom is contrary to nature."

Athenagoras, c. 175 wrote, "They do not abstain even from males, males with males, committing shocking abominations, outraging all the noblest and comeliest bodies in all sorts of ways."

St. Clement of Alexandria, c. 195 wrote, "Men play the part of women, and women that part of men, contrary to nature. Women are at once both wives and husbands, O miserable spectacle! Horrible conduct!"

Origen, c. 245, wrote "Such sins are committed by fornicators, adulterers, abusers of themselves with men, effeminate men, idolaters, and murderers."

St. Clement of Rome, c.96 stated, "It is well that they should be cut off from the lusts of the world, since 'every lust wars against the spirit' and 'neither fornicators, nor homosexuals will inherit the Kingdom of God.'"