

TEN OTHER ISSUES PARENTS FREQUENTLY ASK ABOUT¹

When Homosexuality Hits Home: What to Do When a Loved One Says, "I'm Gay".

Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2004/2015. Used by permission.

1. "I've been told the suicide rate among gay teenagers is high and that the primary reason is that parents reject them because of their homosexuality. I don't reject my son, but could my refusal to say, 'Gay is okay' actually damage him and put him at risk for suicide or other problems?"

This concern is based largely on a faulty report submitted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services in 1989. The gist of the report was that suicide among gay teenagers accounted for a third of all teen suicides. Although the report was roundly discredited for its flaws in methodology and conclusion, the myth was born and has been repeated so often it has come to be accepted as conventional wisdom.

Your belief that homosexuality is wrong will not damage your son, nor will your insistence that he live within the boundaries you set in your home.

Of course, if you call him names, humiliate him, tell him his homosexuality makes him worse than other people, disown him, wish death or injury upon him, or otherwise abuse him physically or psychologically, then yes—you will definitely be damaging him. But to hold a belief about sex and promote that belief with your minor children is neither a form of rejection nor abuse. Rather, it's a quaint thing called parenting.

2. "My daughter has told me she doesn't want my husband to know about her lesbianism at this point. She has asked me to keep it to myself, but is that the right thing to do?"

No, it isn't. Your daughter is asking you to keep secrets from your husband, which is a surefire way of putting a wedge between the two of you. Explain to her that her request is unfair and you don't intend to comply. But do give her the option of telling him herself. Let her know that, if she wishes, you'll refrain briefly—a day or so—from talking to your husband about this. During that time, she can tell him herself. But if, after a couple of days, she still hasn't told him, then you should. He's entitled to know and, more important, it's wrong for your daughter to ask you to close a door of communication with your spouse.

3. "My son was raised Christian, and he claims that, even though he's gay, he's still a believer. I don't want to cut him off, but when I read in 1 Corinthians 5: 11 that we should not have anything to do with a Christian who's living in open sin, does that apply to family members as well?"

In 1 Corinthians 5: 11 Paul says, "I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner— not even to eat with such a person."

I'm convinced this Scripture does not apply to family members. If it did, it would mean Christian husbands and wives would have to literally stop living together if one of them drank too much, raged, or showed evidence of idolatry. Likewise, it would mean Christian children would have to refuse to be in the same room with their Christian parents if those parents were involved in such sins. And obviously this would all contradict other Scriptures commanding us toward family harmony. So while I do believe we are commanded to withdraw from a believer (but not a blood relative) who is committing such sins, I do not believe these verses compel us to withdraw from our own family members.

4. "We're supporting our daughter through college, but she recently told us she's in a lesbian relationship. Since my husband and I disapprove of homosexuality, should we withdraw her tuition support? If we don't, aren't we encouraging her in this lifestyle?"

No, you're not. Putting her through college is a way of supporting her education and future career, not her lifestyle. Remember, the prodigal son's father did give him his inheritance (see Luke 15: 12) even though he knew his son would most likely be living in sin. In doing so, he was supporting his son, not his son's sin.

If your daughter were asking you to financially back a cause or organization you don't believe in, that would be another matter. But withholding tuition will accomplish nothing and will only be seen as a form of punishment and manipulation. Helping her acquire a degree will improve her potential and future, no matter what she chooses to do with her sexuality.

5. "My son and his partner are adopting a child. And not long ago a friend told us, 'My daughter and her partner are having a child through artificial insemination.' What role, if any, should we as grandparents play in this?"

Your son is in sin; the child involved is not. (An out-of-wedlock pregnancy, for example, produces a child under the wrong circumstances, but the child itself could hardly be considered wrong and should be welcomed and cared for.) That being the case, this child deserves all the love and support you can give. By all means be involved in the child's life to the fullest extent your son will allow and be a grandparent as you would be to any of your other children's children. Your son will need and appreciate any help you can offer, and there really is no moral compromise involved here. A new life is coming into your home. No matter the circumstances bringing it, it is— as is all life— sacred and precious.

6. "Our daughter is in her twenties and has come out to us. We have younger children still living with us at home, and they love their sister very much. Should we tell them about her, and if so, how should we tell them?" At some point, yes, you'll need to tell them. So ask your daughter to let you be the one to do so, because you want to determine when and how this is disclosed. Judge the timing for this as you would judge the timing for discussing any sensitive subject with your kids— determine their level of maturity and trust your instincts, much as you would with the "sex talk." (It's hard to say at what age kids in general are ready for that either, but your instincts are a pretty good guide.)

Then, when you feel they're ready, include the following points when you tell them about their sister:

- You love your daughter very much, you always will, and you hope they always will too.
- Their sister has decided she's a homosexual. You don't approve, and you're praying she'll change her mind about this, but for now this is what she's decided.
- You're not going to compromise your beliefs, and you won't ever allow anything to be practiced or expressed in the home that violates your moral principles.
- As much as possible, you want to keep the family together. You're not sure at this point how this will affect the family's future, but that will largely depend on what you and their sister can agree on when it comes to family visits and policies.

- You'll answer whatever questions they have as honestly as you can. If they need to talk with a counselor or pastor about this, you'll make an appointment for them.
- You want them to be honest with you about their feelings. If they're angry, confused, or upset, you want them to feel comfortable talking it over with you or with their sister, if she's open to that.

Then let your daughter know you've had this talk with her siblings. Emphasize that you hope her relationship with them will stay close, but make sure she understands the need to respect your teaching and boundaries in the home, especially regarding your younger kids.

7. "My husband and I disagree over how we should relate to our son. Even though we both disapprove of homosexuality, he feels okay having our son and his partner come into our home. I'm very uncomfortable with that and would feel unable to sit down to dinner with them and pretend nothing's wrong. What should we do?"

If you're unable to have your son and his partner in the home without extreme discomfort, then he and his partner will sense it (even if you try hard to conceal it), and everyone involved will have a tense, nonproductive time. So instead of trying to force something that won't work, try making other arrangements.

Since your husband is more comfortable seeing them as a couple, he could visit the two of them together without you, and your son could visit you at home without his partner. (You should be prepared for him to refuse this option, but you can at least ask.) Either way, you'll need to be honest with him about your limitations. Don't apologize for your discomfort—it doesn't make you "wrong"—just explain it and try to negotiate around it.

8. "My gay son attends what he calls a 'gay-friendly' church, where homosexuality is celebrated as a gift from God. My wife and I have invited our son to attend church with us, which he says he'll do, but only if my wife and I also go to the gay church with him. Should we?"

No. Attending a church with someone is a far cry from going to a neutral location with him, such as a restaurant or a park. When you attend a church, you participate in its worship service, which is a clear statement of unity. And if

unity isn't there (and in this case it wouldn't be), your participation would be at least dishonest. For that reason, I'd urge you to decline the invitation. Just as your son is clearly entitled to not participate in things he believes to be wrong, so are you. In fact, conscience dictates this.

9. "My daughter has given us an ultimatum: Either we treat her and her partner the way we'd treat any married couple—which means having them stay in our home when they visit from out of town, join all family activities, and be considered a couple like any other—or else she'll cut off all communication with us. We don't want to be bullied into a compromise, but we also don't want to lose our daughter. Should we comply with her demands?"

Your daughter is forcing your hand by demanding something you cannot in good conscience do. First, try appealing to her sense of fairness. Before she came out, she knew where you stood. Ask her plainly, Do you see us demanding that you reject lesbianism or we'll have nothing to do with you? If not, then why are you demanding we accept lesbianism or you'll have nothing to do with us? It's an unreasonable and somewhat childish demand.

But if the demand stays in place, you have no choice but to refuse and let her do what she feels she needs to. It will no doubt be heartbreaking, but you're being forced to choose between two hardships: the hardship of being estranged from your daughter and the hardship of complying with something that violates your conscience. No one should have to make that choice, but since you must, at least make the choice that does not require you to give in to bullying you don't deserve.

10. "My son claims to be Christian, but his view of the Bible has changed to a much broader, what he calls more 'inclusive,' approach. And his beliefs seem to have changed about many things, not just homosexuality, ever since he came out. Is it possible he is still saved, as he says he is, or has he lost his salvation?"

If salvation really can be lost through ongoing, unrepentant sin, then it's possible he is apart from Christ. But even if that can be the case, so long as he's alive there can also be the possibility of his repenting and regaining the standing before God that he lost.

Another possibility is that, rather than being damned, he's deceived. Paul referred to the Galatians as being deceived, yet he didn't suggest they were

unsaved (see Galatians 3: 1). This seems especially relevant to your son, since his view in general seems to have drifted further and further from biblical moorings. (Remember too that the Corinthian church was a mess— read all of 1 Corinthians to get a clear picture— yet Paul referred to them as the “sanctified in Christ Jesus,” indicating that, no matter how far they'd gone into error, they still belonged to Christ.)

So at this point, there's no way to prove conclusively that he's unsaved, or saved but deceived, or saved but backslidden. What you can say for certain is that he's wrong. Why he is wrong, or how his wrongdoing has affected any relationship he may have with God, is something you cannot fully judge or assess.



¹ (Adapted from *When Homosexuality Hits Home: What to Do When a Loved One Says, "I'm Gay"*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2004/2015. Used by permission.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES BY CATEGORY

It is important to note that there are currently no resources available in this realm of ministry that are presented from an authentically Biblical counseling perspective. However, most of the resources available have been created by men and women for whom God has broken the bondage of homosexual sin. This being so, it is necessary to discern the "gold and silver of the Egyptians" where it can be found in what is currently available and cast aside the influence (heavy, at times) of worldly philosophies.

CURRICULUM

Helping People Step Out of Homosexuality, Frank Worthen. Available through www.NewHope123.org/materials/workbooks

Pursuing Sexual Wholeness & Workbook, Andrew Comiskey, Available through Desert Stream Ministries at <http://desertstream.org/Shop/>

Such Were Some of You, (video Curriculum) by Mastering Life Ministries and Pure Passion Media (2014). Available through <http://suchweresomeofyou.org/> or www.masteringlife.org

Taking Back Ground, Portland Fellowship, available via www.takingbackground.com/bookstore.php

Transformed Into His Image: Hidden Steps on the Journey to Christlikeness, Dr. David Kyle Foster, Mastering Life Ministries 2002. Available through Mastering Life Ministries at <http://www.masteringlife.org/index.php/online-store>.

Unbound, Truth in Love Biblical Counseling Center. Available through Truth in Love Biblical Counseling Center at <http://TILBCC.com>. Email Warren Lamb at pastorlamb@live.com for more information.

PARENTS, FAMILY

A Parent's Guide to Preventing Homosexuality, Joseph Nicolosi and Linda Ames Nicolosi (Sep 30, 2002).

Dangerous Affirmations, Help 4 Families & Denise Shick (April 2014).

Like Mother, Like Daughter? The Effects of Growing Up in a Homosexual Home, Jakii Edwards.

My Daddy's Secret, Denise Shick, Xulon Press 2008.

Someone I Love is Gay: How Family and Friends Can Respond, Anita Worthen and Bob Davies, IV Press.

When Homosexuality Hits Home: What to Do When a Family Member Says They're Gay, Joe Dallas, Harvest House Publishers, 2004.

When Hope Seems Lost, Denise Shick, Xulon Press, 2011.

MEN

Breaking Free: Understanding Sexual Addiction & the Healing Power of Jesus, Russell Willingham, InterVarsity Press 1999.

Desires in Conflict: Hope for Men Who Struggle With Sexual Identity, Joe Dallas, Harvest House Publishers 2003..

Crisis in Masculinity, Leanne Payne, Baker, 1999.

Growth into Manhood: Resuming the Journey, Alan Medinger 2000.

Homosexual No More. William Consiglio, Victor Books 1991. Available through the Restored Hope Network's Office. Email: info@restoredhopenetwork.org to purchase a copy.

Reparative Therapy of Male Homosexuality: A New Clinical Approach, Joseph Nicolosi, Jason Aronson / 1997.

WOMEN

Free Indeed: One Woman's Victory Over Lesbianism, Barbara Swallow, 2000. Available through www.finm.org.

Out of Egypt, Jeannette Howard, Monarch Publishing 1991.

Restoring Sexual Identity, Anne Paulk, Harvest House Publishers 2003. Available through anne@RestoredHopeNetwork.org or www.amazon.com/books

The Heart of Female Same-Sex Attraction: A Comprehensive Counseling Resource, Janelle Hallman, Inter-varsity Press, 2008.

DEALING WITH ABUSE

Beyond Betrayal: Taking Charge of Your Life After Boyhood Sexual Abuse, Richard B. Gartner, Wiley, 2005.

Door of Hope: Recognizing and Resolving the Pains of Your Past, Revised and Updated, Jan Frank, Thomas Nelson, 1995.

Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse, Steven R. Tracy, Zondervan, 2008.

On The Threshold of Hope: Opening The Door to Healing For Survivors of Sexual Abuse, Diane Mandt Langberg, Tyndale House, 1999.

The Betrayal Bond: Breaking Free of Exploitive Relationships, Patrick J. Carnes, Health Publications, 1997.

The Wounded Heart: Hope for Adult Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse, Dan B. Allender, NavPress, 1990.

MISCELLANEOUS

Love into Light: The Gospel, the Homosexual, and the Church, Peter Hubbard, Ambassador-Emerald, Intl., 2013.

Naked Surrender, Andrew Comiskey, available through the bookstore at www.DesertStream.org/shop

Shame and Attachment Loss: The Practical Work of Reparative Therapy, Joseph J. Nicolosi, IVP Academic, 2009.

Strength in Weakness, Andrew Comiskey, available through the bookstore at www.DesertStream.org/shop

The Basics of Male Homosexuality: A Guide for Pastors, Counselors or the Person with Same-Sex Attractions, Rev. Tim Gould, CreateSpace Publishing, 2012.


A Wife's Perspective: A resource for wives who are dealing with their husband's marital unfaithfulness and sexual compulsions, Denise Shick, Help4Families, 2014

Understanding Gender Confusion: A Faith Based Perspective, Denise Shick, Help4Families, 2014.



VICTIM


FAMILY DISASTER
WHEN A LOVED ONE SAYS
"I'M GAY!"



**I'M
GAY!!**






VANCOUVER BIBLE INSTITUTE
ACCESSIBLE. UNDERSTANDABLE. AFFORDABLE.





IABC PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAINING
CENTER


WARREN LAMB
DIRECTOR AND LEAD PROFESSOR
IABC Area Coordinator (Washington & Oregon)



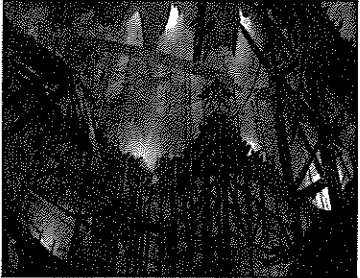
Often the first question asked is:
What do you mean, you're
gay?!

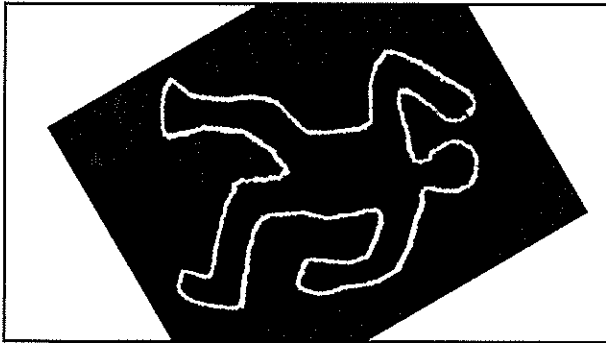


**"My son is
confused;
he thinks
he's gay."**



- Shock
- Confusion
- Denial
- Dismay
- Anger
- Agony





- "I hurt so bad I wish I could die."
- "I'm so scared he'll die of AIDS."
- "If she continues down this road, she'll die separated from Christ and be lost forever."



- "I'll just die if any of my friends find out."
- "His father will die when he hears this."
- "What will the people at church say?"



ALL TOO OFTEN...



"You're disgusting!"

"You make me sick!"



"You're going to burn in HELL!"



Often the second question asked is:
How did this *happen*?!



The question asked over and over is:
What are we supposed to do
NOW?!



To understand a person does not
require you to agree, it simply helps
you communicate more clearly.
To understand does not require that
you compromise your beliefs; it
simply helps you navigate through
matters that matter.



If the family affected holds to a
Biblical worldview on human
sexuality, then the Biblical
Counselor has a solid foundation to
work from.

If not, then there are even graver
matters at issue and you may be of
little, if any, help.



For the Biblical Counselor, the most
important question to ask is:

*How do I help families
impacted by homosexuality
navigate Biblically through the
confusion, shame, and grief?*



The answers to these and
other questions that will arise
depends on the view one
takes on the nature of
homosexuality and our duties
as believers.



"And we urge you, brothers and
sisters, warn **[noutheteō]** those who
are undisciplined and unruly,
comfort the discouraged and
fearful, help and strengthen the
weak, be patient toward all."

1 Thessalonians 5:14



"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



6 SITUATIONS

- I. Parents with a homosexual adult child.
- II. Parents with a homosexual teenage child.



6 SITUATIONS

- III. Spouses with a partner who is homosexual.
- IV. Children with a homosexual parent.



6 SITUATIONS

- V. Brothers or sisters with a homosexual sibling.
- VI. Those with a homosexual extended-family member.



"Flashing in my mind was this wonderful son who was so bubbly and happy— such a joy to have around. Thinking of him entwined with some other male brought heaves of heavy sobbing from deep wounds of agony."
 Barbara Johnson; 2008
Where Does a Mother Go to Resign?



I. HOW DO WE HELP THOSE FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY SSA AND GENDER-CONFUSION?
 Our Response



OUR RESPONSE

- Must be **Biblical**
 - Holds fast to the clear teaching of Scripture
- Must be **Christ-like**
 - Combines grace **and** truth



OUR RESPONSE

- Must be **Authentic**
 - Combines humility and compassion



PARAKLETOS

- Proper Focus:
 - Gospel-centric, not issue-centric;
 - Christian vs. non-Christian;
 - Center on Christ-likeness;
 - Be fearless.



SCENARIOS



- A married man has committed adultery with another man.
- A son has been using gay pornography in his parents' home, knowing how strongly they would object to porn in any form.
- A man marries a woman without telling her about his homosexual attractions.



- A daughter takes financial support from her parents, including money for rent, while telling them she lives alone or has a roommate when in fact she's in a lesbian relationship.
- A man demands that his family recognize his relationship with another man as a marriage, threatening to cut them off if they don't.



II. WHAT IS HOMOSEXUALITY?

Words Matter



3 OPTIONS FOR BELIEVERS

1. Viable, * Normal Lifestyle
2. Demon Possession
3. Idolatrous Sin Pattern



WORDS MATTER

- * Normal
 - Inborn or genetic
 - God-ordained
 - Morally acceptable/promotable



A SIMPLE DEFINITION

- Homosexuality is:
 - Same-Sex Attraction —SSA
(SGA/SSP/SGP).
 - "An **enduring pattern** of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attractions to members of the same gender."



3 TIERS

- Homosexuality is **3-tiered**; it has three different "levels" or dimensions.
 - I. Condition/orientation
 - II. Behavior
 - III. Identity




3 TIERS — TIER 1

- CONDITION/ORIENTATION
 - Involuntary; "discovered"
 - Appears early and is deeply ingrained




3 TIERS — TIER 2

- BEHAVIOR
 - Sexual involvement with a member of the same gender
 - Can be actual or vicarious




3 TIERS — TIER 3

- IDENTITY
 - Primary identifying life characteristic
 - Acceptance of homosexuality as *normal and morally correct




III. WHY IS THEIR LOVED ONE HOMOSEXUAL? IS IT THEIR FAULT?
Our Understanding




BREAKING IT DOWN

- Homosexuality is:
 - Multi-causal
 - Developmental
 - 3-Tiered




MULTI-CAUSAL

- Social/Environmental
- Psychological
- Emotional
- Behavioral



“The [homosexual] individual suffers from a lack of identification with the same-sex parent and that, upon entering puberty, the unsatisfied childhood needs are eroticized, which results in the individual seeking to fulfill these legitimate needs with people of the same gender.”

Elizabeth R. Moberly, MD; 1983
Homosexuality: A New Christian Ethic



MULTI-CAUSAL

- Overly Sensitive
 - Compliant: "Always a good boy"
 - Cries easily
 - Creative more than athletic
 - Partial to more "feminine" activities
 - Aversion to roughness/sports

VB
VICTIM

MULTI-CAUSAL

- Same-Gender Detachment
 - SG parent absent or uninterested
 - SG parent hostile/rejects
 - Insecure or overly strong attachment to other parent
 - Rejected/feels unsafe in SG world

VB
VICTIM

MULTI-CAUSAL

- Poor Peer Attachment
 - SG peers taunt, tease, name-call
 - SG peers don't "choose"
 - More secure with opposite gender
 - Rejected/feels unsafe in world of peers

VB
VICTIM

MULTI-CAUSAL

- Abuse
 - Sexual
 - Physical
 - Verbal
 - Emotional
 - Spiritual

VB
VICTIM

MULTI-CAUSAL

- Puberty
 - Pre-puberty stress over one's sexuality
 - Doubt and sexuality stressors inhibit brain development
 - Poor or late physical development
 - SG fascination

VB
VICTIM

A WORD ABOUT GENDER

- Gender is a biological reality
- Gender is a core identifier
- Our culture has exacerbated the issue

VB
VICTIM

A WORD ABOUT GENDER

- "Gender Identity Disorder" affects hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions
- GID is more complex and complicated than SSA
- There is no quick fix



Christians ought to seriously consider how our careless use of any of these labels or categories confuses the language of faith. It would be more fitting for the Church to speak of someone as experiencing same-sex attraction than to refer to him or her as homosexual, gay, or lesbian.



The Church has always viewed Christian identity in terms of our relationship to God through Christ. Once the Church succumbs to the idea that our basic identity is sexual rather than theological in nature, then the Church has already lost its way and is weakened in the discussion.



IV. WHAT ARE THEY TO DO GOING FORWARD?

Our Context



WORLDVIEW MATTERS

- Our Theology
 - Does God exist?
 - Whose version of God is correct?
 - What does God require?



WORLDVIEW MATTERS

- Our Anthropology
 - What is man?
 - What is the purpose of man?
 - What is the destiny of man?



WORLDVIEW MATTERS

- Our Morality
 - Who or what determines right and wrong, good and bad?
 - Is there a transcendent "ought", or are we left to self-determine?
 - Do we accept the mores of others?



FACT OR FICTION?

- On average, 10% of the population is homosexual, with a much higher number being male than female.
 - **FICTION:** The last part is true, but the first part, based upon US Census numbers, is less than 1% of the population self-identifies as homosexual.



FACT OR FICTION?

- Homosexuality is genetic. Researchers have found the equivalent of a "gay gene".
 - **FICTION:** No scientifically accepted, replicable studies exist that clearly demonstrate that homosexuality is genetic.



FACT OR FICTION?

- Jesus never addressed homosexuality and the Bible never teaches anything against healthy, loving same-sex unions.
 - **FICTION:** There is a great deal that the Bible says about homosexual conduct.



FACT OR FICTION?

- Homosexuality is a personal matter and it really isn't anyone else's business.
 - **FICTION:** The impact of sexual activity on those involved has always been a matter of responsible concern to society.




OUR CONTEXT

The general context that we are living in today accepts and affirms homosexuality and transgenderism as normal, good, and right. This view is repeatedly endorsed in the media, entertainment, music, and literature—even that of our children.




3 OPTIONS FOR BELIEVERS

1. What the Culture Says
2. What my Experience Says
3. What the Scriptures Say




EVERY STORY RELATES

- Like divorce, homosexuality touches every person in our society.
 - “My [loved one] is gay; how can I say that they are condemned by God?”




OUR THEOLOGY

What is True?




A WORKING DEFINITION

One's theology is one's commitment to a set of intellectual and emotional ideas about God and man that drive one's decision-making and actions.

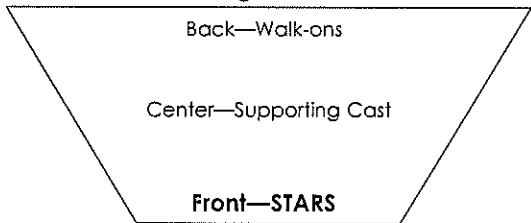


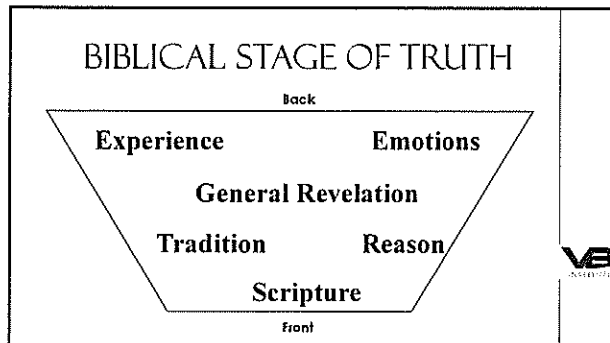
OUR THEOLOGY

- EVERYONE has a theology.
- The question is: Is it a good theology, or a bad one?
- What we believe is what we live; we cannot do otherwise.



STAGE OF TRUTH





A FEW PASSAGES

OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leviticus 18:22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination." • Leviticus 20:13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romans 1:22-29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very clearly speaks about men being sexually intimate with men and women being sexually intimate with women. • 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those engaged in sexual immorality (homosexual conduct specifically named) is part of a list of those who will not inherit the kingdom of God.

VB
VERITAS

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9

"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 ...

VB
VERITAS

1 CORINTHIANS 6:10

... nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

VB
VERITAS

1 CORINTHIANS 6:11

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."

VB
VERITAS

FALSE DICHOTOMIES

- Many in the Church believe that there is a hotter place in Hell for homosexuals than for most other sinners and that no one can be Christian and same-sex attracted.
- Many in the Church believe that the opposite of homosexuality is heterosexuality.

VB
VERITAS

RESOLUTION

"He who **believes** in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not **obey** the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 3:36



THE WRATH OF GOD

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against **all ungodliness and unrighteousness** of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness."

Romans 1:18



The opposite of homosexuality is **NOT** heterosexuality ...

it is

HOLINESS



2 QUESTIONS

1. Can you be same-sex attracted and be a Christian?
2. Do gays go to hell?



YOU DECIDE

As a part of the Body of Christ, each and every believer must determine where they will come down on these matters.



YOU DECIDE

As Biblical Counselors, we must hold to properly interpreted Scripture and encourage those who come to us for help to do the same.



THEY MUST CHOOSE

- Will they accept the Scriptural teaching about homosexuality and respond honestly and compassionately?
- Or, will they respond as the culture demands?
- Will they make truth-in-love their priority, or people's feelings?



IDEAS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

- When we take any stand, we set up "dominoes of consequence."
- Paying close attention to the last falling domino is critical.



DECISIONS



What are we supposed to do *NOW*?!



- How are they to love their loved one when they so strongly disagree on something so foundational?
- How are they to handle what seems like open rebellion against both them and God?
- How are they to respect their loved one's free will without cosigning their sin?



- What are the terms for continuing the relationship?
- What are the non-negotiables?
- What is negotiable?
- What boundaries will be put in place?

"As far as possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."
(Romans 12: 18)



ACTION PLAN FOR PARENTS

- Where the Bible is adamant, be adamant.
- Where the Bible is silent, be open-minded.
- When a theory contradicts what Scripture clearly teaches, reject it.
- When a theory is affirmed by what Scripture teaches, accept it.
- When a theory is neither confirmed nor denied by Scripture, consider it.

PARENTS' ROLES

- A. Exercise Authority, Care & Influence
- B. Exercise Authority & Care
- C. Consultant Role

- God is still able to influence:
 - His Word
 - Their Conscience
 - Their Circumstances

PARENTS' ROLES

1. Clarify the person's position on homosexuality
 - a. Decided & "gay-affirming"
 - b. Undecided
 - c. Decided but not gay-affirming

PARENTS' ROLES

2. Clarify their (parents') position on homosexuality
3. Have them articulate their fears and ask questions

5 ISSUES PARENTS OF TEENS OFTEN ASK ABOUT



1. My son says he'll agree not to have sex, but he still wants to go out on dates with a boy he considers his boyfriend. He says if they're not having sex, then he's committing no sin, just as if he were dating a girl but not having sex with her. Is he right? What should we do?"



2. "Our daughter insists she's entitled to go to the Gay- Straight Alliance group at her high school. She swears the group is a main source of comfort and support for her and we have no right to keep her from it. Is she right?"



3. "My son seems depressed, and we want him to see a counselor. He says he'll only go to a non-Christian counselor because he doesn't want to be told homosexuality's a sin. What should we do?"



4. "Our daughter has lesbian friends at school who she swears she's not sexually involved with, and we believe her. But we're still concerned because of their beliefs and behavior."



5. "Our teenaged son has admitted his same-sex feelings, but he refuses to discuss the subject any further with us because he's certain we do not and cannot understand. 'You just don't get it,' he keeps saying. Should we try to force the issue, or leave it alone?"



ACTION PLAN FOR SPOUSES: FOR 'BETTER OR WORSE?'



THE EMERGING PICTURE

- Distance
- Secrecy
- Discovery



CLOSING THOUGHTS



1. If we believe that Scripture is comprehensively sufficient for understanding those aspects of human nature that it addresses (2 Peter 1:3-8);
2. And if we believe that the Scriptures are fully authoritative in the life of any and all believers (1 Timothy 3:16-17);



3. Then we must systematically and exegetically submit ourselves to the Word of God and robustly require our counseling approach to do likewise. In so doing, we seek to encourage those we counsel to do likewise.



WHAT WE KNOW

1. We are created beings, created by God with a specific design and intent. This includes our sexuality.
2. The created intent for the expression of human sexuality is fulfilled only within the covenant of a lifelong, monogamous, and heterosexual union.



WHAT WE KNOW

3. We are a rebellious and fallen race, and the Fall has marred every aspect of our existence.
4. Homosexual behavior is both a manifestation of a fallen nature and a violation of God's created intent.



WHAT WE KNOW

5. Homosexuals, like all people, are redeemable through Christ.
6. God's desire is that none would perish, but instead that all would come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)
7. "Unbind him, set him free, let him go." (John 11:44b)



Q & A



**Restored Hope
Network™**

"And such were some of you..."

RestoredHopeNetwork.com



Thank You

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the conversation today.

We are a resource for you at
www.VancouverBible.com
www.TILBCC.com

