What Do We DOOO??
“About The Issue of Homosexuality”
Various Scriptures
Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Open with comments . . .
allow me to once again reiterate, why we are doing such a series.....

1st As your pastor, I have a Biblical obligation to lead the flock, Biblically on any and all moral issues.....

2nd As your pastor, I have a Biblical obligation to teach what the Bible says about these moral issues....

3rd As a Christian citizen, who just so happens to be your pastor, I have the Biblical obligation to exhort you to be a Biblical, educated voter AND to exercise the privilege we have to vote, which indeed is a privilege

4th IF I DON’T do such a thing, I will give an account to the Lord God.... therefore, I must be obedient...

☛ In the day and age we live, it is imperative that we, as practicing Christians, be Biblically versed enough to address these issues and explain WHY we believe what we believe and to be able to provide an intelligent answer when asked about such issues.... and to answer Biblically

I. What Is The Definition Of Marriage?

Answer:

☛ On June 26, 2013, the United States Supreme Court issued a ruling that gives same-sex couples who hold a legal marriage in their state the same federal benefits as married straight couples.

In their ruling, the justices overturned the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), a law that forbade the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriage as legal.

The court claimed that DOMA displaced the Fifth Amendment’s guarantee of equality for all people.

☛ Across the Atlantic, in mid-July 2013, the Queen of England signed into
law “The Marriage Bill,” which allows same-sex couples to marry legally.

Around the world, at least fifteen other nations have legalized marriage between same-sex partners.

Obviously, the definition of marriage is changing.

But is it the right of a government to redefine marriage, or has the definition of marriage already been set by a higher authority?

In Genesis chapter 2, God declares it is not good for Adam (the first man) to live alone.

All the animals are there, but none of them are a suitable partner for Adam.

God, therefore, in a special act of creation, makes a woman.

Just a few verses later, the woman is called “his wife” (Genesis 2:25).

Eden was the scene of the first marriage, ordained by God Himself.

The author of Genesis then records the standard by which all future marriages are defined:

“A man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh” Genesis 2:24).

This passage of Scripture gives several points for understanding God’s design for marriage.

First, marriage involves a man and a woman.

The Hebrew word for “wife” is gender-specific; it cannot mean anything other than “a woman.”

There is NO passage in Scripture that mentions a marriage involving anything other than a man and a woman.

It is impossible for a family to form or human reproduction to take place asexually.

Since God ordained sex to only take place between a married couple,...

... it follows that God's design is for the family unit to be formed
when a man and woman come together in a sexual relationship and have children.

The **second principle** from Genesis 2 about God’s design for marriage is that **marriage is intended to last for a lifetime**.

Verse 24 says the two become “one flesh.”

☞ Eve was taken from Adam’s side, and **so she was literally one flesh with Adam**.

*** Her very substance was formed from Adam instead of from the ground.

<> Every marriage thereafter **is intended to reflect the unity shared by Adam and Eve**.

<> Because their bond was “in the flesh,” they were together forever.

<> There was **no escape clause written into the first marriage that allowed for the two to separate**.

That is to say **that God designed marriage for life**.

*** When a man and a woman make a commitment to marry, they “become one flesh,” and that is why they say, “Till death do us part.”

A third principle from this passage about God’s design for marriage is **monogamy**.

☞ The Hebrew words for “man” and “wife” are **singular and do not allow for multiple wives**.

☞ Even though some people in Scripture did have multiple wives, it is clear from the creation account that God’s design for marriage was one man and one woman.

☞ Jesus emphasized this principle when He appealed to the Genesis account to counter the idea of easy divorce (Matthew 19:4—6).

!!! It should come as no surprise that the world desires to change what God has instituted.

“The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so” (Romans 8:7).
Though the world is attempting to provide their own definitions for what they call “marriage,” the Bible still stands.

**SCREEN / OUTLINE**

The clear definition of marriage is the union of one man and one woman for life.

Now .... having defined Biblical Marriage.... the next question that arises is:

**II. I Was Born This Way**

A “pill that has been swallowed” is that homosexuals have been born as a homosexual.....

👀 That there are created heterosexuals, and that there are created homosexuals...

👀 That the Lord God sees no wrong with homosexuality because He created the homosexual just like He created the heterosexual.....

👀 Many homosexuals - and now even many non-homosexuals - regard their supposedly positive experience of homosexuality as decisive for moral justification of the lifestyle.

They rely on individual experience, which becomes their final authority for their moral standard.

To them, their desires and habits are not unnatural.

To act in any other way, they say, would be ““unnatural.””

To them, their homosexuality is ““natural.””

👀 The sin of homosexuality was once believed to be a mental illness...but now the American Psychological Association has deemed in its ethical practices that Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual clients are no different than heterosexual clients,

.... and that any psychologist who counsels a homosexual to change his or her lifestyle “harbors prejudice or is misinformed about sexual orientation.”

👀 Even if somewhere in the future a genetic link could be proven, it wouldn’t suddenly make the behavior right—or acceptable to God.
Look at alcoholism or tendencies toward anger. While these have been promoted as having a genetic linkage, there are few, if any, in our society who would accept such behaviors just because they are linked genetically.

THE conclusive ANSWER is there is no support in the scientific research for the conclusion that homosexuality is biologically or genetically determined..... and CERTAINLY not God-given!!!!

Again, The first chapter of Genesis declares that “God created man in His own image . . . male and female He created them.”

Throughout His Word we learn why fornication, adultery and prostitution—as well as “homosexual marriage”—are all distortions of God’s original plan for healthy sexuality.

**SO~~~ Why the Argument Fails in General**

**WELL.....**

>>> Whether someone is born a homosexual or not is a debate that continues to rage with "experts" on both sides producing data and studies that supposedly solidify their position.

Personally, I think the debate is somewhat irrelevant for the following reason:

**!!! Being born with certain behavioral predispositions does not equate to those desires being good, moral, and right in the eyes of God.**

>>> For example, most people wasn’t born monogamous.

<<< Humans natural inclinations and drives are aimed at having sexual relationships with those of the opposite sex ....

Humans are typically not born patient. Instead, we are born naturally impatient.

And self-centered.

And prone to outbursts of anger.

And unforgiving.
And a liar.

And greedy.

>>>>

We are born with all of these things and more.

!!! These traits and desires come naturally, are quite strong, and are very easy to live with in lots of ways.

<!!!> If you want to see many of these sinful behaviors in full bloom, you needn't look any further than the nearest 3-year old child, who will be only too happy to demonstrate his true nature when you don't give him what he wants or if you take something away from him.

This may be why Reinhold Neibuhr has gone so far as to argue that, "The doctrine of original sin is the only empirically verifiable doctrine of the Christian faith." Yet, each one of these natural tendencies is something every responsible parent works hard at changing in their child, and that each responsible adult should work hard at removing from their life.

>>>.... This is why the "born that way" argument fails in general. Its implicit foundation is flawed because it assumes that if a person is born with a particular inclination towards a behavior, then it must be moral and good.

That just isn't true.

SOOO

Think that couldn't happen?

*** In the Apostle Paul's day, some Greeks and Romans justified such actions by asserting that adult/child sexual relations positively contributed to the education of the child. The practice was also included in various pagan religious rituals.

***One wonders if our society is simply returning back to the days of ancient Greece and Rome where sex and other such practices are concerned.

To the church at Corinth, which could arguably be called the most sexually-free and open city of that day, Paul, wrote the following:
"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" (1 Corinthians 6:9–10)

+++ Paul lists out all kinds of supposed "born that way" sexual practices including heterosexual fornication, homosexual sex, and possibly adult/child relations (the Greek term malakos, translated here "effeminate", can refer to such behavior [7]). O.... such acceptance and thinking becomes a rather slippery slope!!!

To pedophilia, polygamy, One has said: "The elevation of pedophilia to sexual orientation clears the way for more of it [eventual cultural approval].

*** But then the Apostle says, "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, my emphasis).

Being born again (John 3) is the first step in overcoming all the "born that way" behaviors that the Bible says are not the marks of godly and righteous people. 

>>> This is not to imply that becoming a Christian instantly eradicates all sinful desires from a person; Paul's statements in Romans 7 prove this thought to be false.

!!! But spiritual regeneration is the beginning of a person's recognition that their born-that-way behaviors are sin.

This is then followed by the empowering of the Holy Spirit that moves a person toward a life of personal holiness and sanctification.

The Bible tells us the fruit of the Spirit is, "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

>< When we manifest these things and reflect Jesus, we can thank God that He has overcome our past sinful inclinations and now has caused us to be "born His way" instead of "born this way".

III. Is It Possible To Be “Gay” & Christian?

Answer:
“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).

☛ There is a tendency to declare homosexuality as the worst of all sins.

☛ While it is undeniable, biblically speaking, that homosexuality is immoral and unnatural (Romans 1:26-27), in no sense does the Bible describe homosexuality as an unforgivable sin.

☛ Nor does the Bible teach that homosexuality is a sin Christians will never struggle against.

>>> Perhaps that is the key phrase in the question of whether it is possible to be a gay Christian: “struggle against.”

☛ It is possible for a Christian to struggle with homosexual temptations.

*** Many homosexuals who become Christians have ongoing struggles with homosexual feelings and desires.

☛ Some strongly heterosexual men and women have experienced a “spark” of homosexual interest at some point in their lives.

☛ Whether or not these desires and temptations exist does not determine whether a person is a Christian.

The Bible is clear that no Christian is sinless (1 John 1:8-10).

☛ While the specific sin / temptation varies from one Christian to another, all Christians have struggles with sin, and all Christians sometimes fail in those struggles (1 Corinthians 10:13).

<> What differentiates a Christian’s life from a non-Christian’s life is the struggle against sin.

☛ The Christian life is a progressive journey of overcoming the “acts of the flesh” (Galatians 5:19-21) and allowing God’s Spirit to produce the “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-23).
Yes, Christians sin, sometimes horribly.

Sadly, sometimes Christians are indistinguishable from non-Christians.

However, a true Christian will always repent, will always eventually return to God, and will always resume the struggle against sin.

But the Bible gives no support for the idea that a person who perpetually and unrepentantly engages in sin can indeed be a Christian.

Notice 1 Corinthians 6:11,

"And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

First Corinthians 6:9-10 lists sins that, if indulged in continuously, identify a person as NOT being redeemed—NOT being a Christian.

Often, homosexuality is singled out from this list.

*** If a person struggles with homosexual temptations, that person is presumed to be unsaved.

*** If a person actually engages in homosexual acts, that person is definitely thought to be unsaved.
*** However, the same assumptions are NOT made, at least not with the same emphasis, regarding other sins in the list: 

>>>fornication (pre-marital sex), idolatry, adultery, thievery, covetousness, alcoholism, slander, and deceit.

It is inconsistent, for example, to declare those guilty of pre-marital sex as “disobedient Christians,” while declaring homosexuals definitively non-Christians.

SO~~

Is it possible to be a gay Christian?

If the phrase “gay Christian” refers to a person who STRUGGLES against homosexual desires and temptations – yes, a person can be Christian who struggles with same sex attraction, yet DOES NOT LIVE THE LIFESTYLE...
In this case ... the description “gay Christian” is not accurate for such a person, since he/she does not desire to be gay, and is struggling against the temptations.

........ Such a person is not a “gay Christian,” but rather is simply a struggling Christian, just as there are Christians who struggle with fornication, lying, and stealing.

IF the phrase “gay Christian” refers to a person who actively, perpetually, and unrepentantly lives a homosexual lifestyle – no, it is not possible for such a person to truly be a Christian.

SCREEN / OUTLINE:
so~~ it’s Struggle -vs- Lifestyle

IV. What About Gay Adoption

The modern practice of gay/lesbian/homosexual adoption is not mentioned in Scripture, but the homosexual factor cannot be ignored.

Gay adoption treats a gay “family” as equal to a heterosexual family, and that violates the biblical model of the family unit as ordained by God.

Some people support the idea of gay adoption by pointing to the needs of children on adoption waiting list having gay parents is better than having no parents at all, they reason.

But there’s no way around these two facts:

1. Homosexuality is a perversion of God’s design and a homosexual couple cannot form a “family,” according to God’s definition of a family Genesis 1:28; 2:24).
2. Also, a child’s greatest need is not necessarily to have two parents; a child’s greatest need is to be cared for in a godly, nurturing way and to have godly role models in his or her life.

>God’s design for the family is that children grow up in a stable, loving environment provided by a man and a woman in a committed, lifelong relationship.

This design is clearly seen in God’s creation of Adam and Eve and God’s
command for them to have children.
The same design is also seen in God’s choice to entrust His Son to a family unit;

!!! ... God prevented Joseph from divorcing Mary (Matthew 1:19–20), thus preserving the nuclear family of a husband, wife, and child.

Should Christians be supporters of gay adoption?

Base on what the Bible says about homosexuality, the answer has to be no.

Homosexuality is a perversion of the very nature of what a family is supposed to be. Christians should not support something that directly contradicts God's will.

At the same time, Christians should be known as people who adopt.

The Christian life is to be a sacrificial journey of finding ways to reach others with the gospel.

*** Clearing out orphanages and foster care systems through adoption and then raising those children “in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4) would be the Christian thing to do.

What DO I DO IF My Child/Loved One Claims To Be Homosexual

If a child reveals his or her homosexuality, the first thing for Christian parents to do is let their child know that, no matter what, love and grace will win the day.

Mom and dad's love will continue, regardless.

First John 4:8 says, “The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” “God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance” Romans 2:4

Parents should also encourage a child who has “come out” not to define himself as a “homosexual.” It’s important to ask questions:

> Are you in a relationship?
> Is the relationship sexual or platonic?
> Have you acted out your feelings of same-sex attraction, or are they
just thoughts you have?

+++ Parents can come alongside a struggling child and help him see that he is not “gay” simply because he has homosexual thoughts. Rather, he is struggling with homosexual desires or same-sex attraction.

☛ The difference between struggling with homosexuality and identifying oneself as gay may seem subtle, but it is a huge distinction, and here’s why.

☛ God never created us to be homosexual. In Christ that is not who we are.

>< In Christ we are a new creation.

☛ Christians may struggle with impatience, idolatry, lust, or pride.

☛ Christians may struggle with same-sex attraction, but that does not make them homosexuals.

>< We are new creations in Christ

It is important that we never communicate to those who have same-sex tendencies that their sin is the worst of all sins.

☛ Yes, homosexuality is sinful, but not to a level above that of heterosexual lust or lying or pride.

The truth is we are all broken, and we all need help to remain pure.

☛ Also, Christian parents should make clear their biblical convictions, but only after they have established a basis of love and grace and empathy and compassion.

Your children/loved one needs to know that the Bible is the supreme authority on all matters of faith and conduct.

Not mom, not dad, not peers, not the church.

☛ And the Bible says that homosexuality is counter to God’s intended
Sexuality must be heterosexual in nature and within the boundary of marriage.

If a child says, “I am homosexual. That’s the way it is, and I don’t care what God thinks,” then clearly the parents are back at step one.

This child needs a serious heart change, and only God can change the heart.

Sin is a heart problem, and until God changes the heart and the child is gripped by the grace of God, nothing will matter.

A parent’s convictions will not matter.

The letter of the law will not matter.

Love is key. It is what drove the prodigal son back to the arms of his father (Luke 15:11–32), and it is, according to the apostle Paul, the greatest of gifts (1 Corinthians 13:13).
I. What Is The Definition Of Marriage?

“A man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).

1. Marriage involves a man and a woman.

2. The second principle from Genesis 2 about God’s design for marriage is that marriage is intended to last for a lifetime.

3. A third principle from this passage about God’s design for marriage is monogamy.

The clear definition of marriage is the union of one man and one woman for life.

II. I Was Born This Way

The first chapter of Genesis declares that “God created man in His own image . . . male and female He created them.”

Being born with certain behavioral predispositions does not equate to those desires being good, moral, and right in the eyes of God.

III. Is It Possible To Be “Gay” & Christian?

so~~ it’s Struggle -vs- Lifestyle

IV. What About Gay Adoption

>>>Based on what the Bible says about homosexuality, the answer has to be no.

Homosexuality is a perversion of the very nature of what a family is supposed to be. Christians should not support something that directly
contradicts God's will.

>> At the same time, Christians should be known as people who adopt. 

V. \* What DO I DO IF My Child/Loved One Claims To Be Homosexual \*

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Resources

Sexuality

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Daniel Heimbach, *True Sexual Morality*

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Sam Allberry, *Is God Anti-Gay?*

Steve Morrison, *Born This Way: Making Sense of Science, the Bible and Same-Sex Attraction.*

Kevin DeYoung, *What Does the Bible Say About Sexuality?*

Websites

The Gospel Coalition

Desiring God

ERLC- The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the SBC
I. What Is The Definition Of Marriage?

“A man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).

1. Marriage involves a m____ and a w______.

2. The second principle from Genesis 2 about God’s design for marriage is that marriage is intended to last for a l________.

3. A third principle from this passage about God’s design for marriage is m____________.

The clear definition of marriage is the union of one m____ and one w____ for life.

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The first chapter of Genesis declares that “God created man in His own image . . . male and female He created them.”

Being born with certain behavioral predispositions does not equate to those desires being g_______, m_______, and r_______ in the eyes of God.

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so~~ it’s S________ -vs- L

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