

What does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?

SCHEDULE:

September 13 Overview and Introduction

Sept 20 “The Bible Hardly Ever Mentions Homosexuality” (& Jesus never condemned it!)

September 27 “Not that kind of Homosexuality” (The Bible does not condemn committed, consensual, lifelong partnerships)

October 4 “What about gluttony and divorce?”

October 11 “The Church is supposed to be a place for broken people!”

October 18 “You are on the wrong side of history!” (The church also taught the earth was flat and that slavery was Biblical).

October 25 “It’s not fair!” (I was born this way & God would not want me to be miserable).

November 1 “The God I worship is a God of Love!”

November 8 Review and Reflection

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality by Kevin DeYoung

Homosexuality: A Biblical View by Greg L. Bahnsen

Loving Homosexuals as Jesus Would: A Fresh Christian Approach by Chad Thompson

The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert by Rosaria Butterfield

Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality by Wesley Hill

Is God Anti-Gay? Questions Christians Ask by Sam Allberry

Christianity and Homosexuality: A Review of Books by Tim Keller at www.redeemer.com

The Bible and same sex relationships: a review article by Tim Keller at www.redeemer.com

Our Social and Sexual Revolution, 3D Ed.: Major Issues for a New Century by John R. W. Stott

Sex and the Supremacy of Christ edited by John Piper and Justin Taylor

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The Biblical Prohibitions:

The Stories of Sodom (Genesis 19:1-13) and Gibeah (Judges 19)

The Leviticus Texts (Leviticus 18:22 and Leviticus 20:13)

The Pauline Tests (Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 1 Timothy 1:9-10)

The *negative* prohibitions of homosexual practices in Scripture make sense only in light of the *positive* teaching in Genesis 1 and 2 about human sexuality and human marriage!

Genesis 1:27-28 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

1-We are all human beings. We are all made in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, no matter how strongly we may disapprove of homosexual practices, we must not dehumanize those persons who engage in such practices. "Affirming humanity"

2-We are all sexual beings. God invented sex. God made us sexual beings. God gave us our gender. He made us male and female which is something that is a huge part of our identity or who we are as people. Therefore, as we discuss sexual issues, we must bring a very high degree of sensitivity to the subject because we are discussing things so closely identified with our identities as people. "Sensitive to identity"

3-We are all sinful beings. We believe in the doctrine of total depravity which means that every aspect of our being has been tainted & twisted by sin & that includes our sexuality. We have all deviated from God's plan for human sexuality so in this way we are all sexual deviants. No one has ever been sexually sinless (with the only exception being Jesus) so we are all in desperate need of the grace of God. Therefore, we cannot come into this study with an attitude of moral superiority or looking down on others. "Grace-dependent humility"

Genesis 2:18-24 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman, ' for she was taken out of man." 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

1-The human need for companionship Genesis 2:18 We can affirm the need for companionship but that does not mean everyone is called to be married (Matthew 19:11-12).

2-The divine provision to meet this human need Genesis 2:20-24 The way the woman was created indicates that she is the divinely designed compliment to a man. The one flesh union of a man and woman is not only a union but a reunion of two people made from each other and for each other.