

Since You Asked

Message One: You Asked About...Homosexuality

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Introduction:

- Today we begin a series dealing with your specific questions.
- You Asked About...Homosexuality.
- Dealing with this question is a little like walking into a mine field
 - Because it has become a hot-button political issue.
 - Because this has become a sound-bite issue with people looking to make snap judgments about the speaker based on the first phrase out of their mouth. (Please listen to the entire message.)
- In this series, we will begin with the fundamental understanding that the only basis for answering any of the questions we will deal with is the Scripture.

The issue of homosexuality is important because it deals with real people. It is not just theory, or academic principle, but this is a people issue.

God Loves Homosexuals

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:7, 8 (NCV)

It is wrong for Christians to mistreat, despise, make fun of, or joke about homosexuals.

Because God loves homosexuals, this church loves homosexuals and welcomes them. We are glad you are here.

Scripture Calls Homosexual Activity Sin

You must not have sexual relations with a man as you would a woman. That is a hateful sin. Lev. 18:22 (NCV)

They traded the truth of God for a lie. Because people did those things, God left them and let them do the shameful things they wanted to do. Women stopped having natural sex and started having sex with other women. In the same way, men stopped having natural sex and began wanting each other. Rom. 1:25-27 (NCV)

Surely you know that the people who do wrong will not inherit God's kingdom. Do not be fooled. Those who sin sexually, worship idols, take part in adultery, those who are male prostitutes, or men who have sexual relations with other men, those who steal, are greedy, get drunk, lie about others, or rob—these people will not inherit God's kingdom. I Cor. 6:9, 10 (NCV)

There is nowhere in Scripture that homosexuality is spoken of in a positive light.

There is no way to take seriously what the Bible says and come to some other conclusion than that God calls homosexual activity sin.

“But God made me this way.”

- We are all a combination of nature, environment and our choices.
- Since the fall of man, none of us is a perfect expression of what God intended.
- Sin is an ugly word, but Romans 3:23 tells us that all of us have sinned.

God Offers Change

In the past, some of you were like that, but you were washed clean. You were made holy, and you were made right with God in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. I Cor. 6:11 (NCV)

- Sin is an ugly word, but God's grace has the power to overcome sin.
- The goal is not "how not to be gay," but "how to be more like Christ."
- Heterosexuality is not the goal, discipleship is.
- All followers of Christ deal with temptations of various kinds.
- As we grow in Christ, we find more and more of our identity in Him and less and less of our identity in the things that tempt us.

Conclusion:

You asked about homosexuality. Perhaps because you wanted to know if our church's position passed muster with your beliefs. Or maybe you asked because you want to know how to talk to your children or friends about this issue. Maybe you asked because it is a very personal reality with a family member, a friend, a co-worker...or with you.

Please know that God loves you, and so do we here at City Church. He's glad you are here today.

Although what you are doing violates His law, He offers you forgiveness...just like He does to everyone.