

Homosexuality Roundtable

2/21/16



JOHNSTON
evangelical free church

Introduction

Defining Homosexuality

Homosexuality refers to:

- > Attraction –
- > Behaviors –
- > Identity –

Sam Allberry:

In western culture today the obvious term for someone with homosexual feelings is “gay”. But in my experience this often refers to far more than someone’s sexual orientation. It has come to describe an identity and a lifestyle. When someone says they’re gay, or for that matter, lesbian or bisexual, they normally mean that, as well as being attracted to someone of the same gender, their sexual preference is one of the fundamental ways in which they see themselves. And it’s for this reason that I tend to avoid using the term. It sounds clunky to describe myself as “someone who experiences same-sex attraction”. But describing myself like this is a way for me to recognize that the kind of sexual attractions I experience are not fundamental to my identity. They are part of what I feel but are not who I am in a fundamental sense. I am far more than my sexuality. Take another kind of appetite. I love meat. A plate without a slab of animal on it just doesn’t feel right to me. But my love for meat does not mean I would want someone to think that “carnivore” was the primary category through which to understand me. It is part of the picture, but does not get to the heart of who I am. So I prefer to talk in terms of being someone who experiences homosexual feelings, or same-sex attraction.¹

¹Allberry, Sam (2013-10-08). Is God anti-gay? (Questions Christians Ask) (Kindle Locations 58-68). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

Reasons to use the term Same Sex Attraction (SSA)

- > It says, "I experience this, but it is not my ultimate identity."
- > When we use the term SSA, it begins to cast it in biblical terms.

My Experience as a Pastor

Goals of this Homosexuality Roundtable

Truth –

Grace –

John 1:14-17 (ESV)

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:15 (ESV)

Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

To provide a more helpful, safe environment for those wrestling with SSA

Culture-Shaped Responses to Homosexuality

Acceptance of Homosexuality

*How can you tell someone whom to love?
Why would God make them this way?
The Bible never condemned monogamous homosexual relationships, right?*

- > Influenced by:
- > Stereotype:
- > Need:

Arrogance towards Homosexuality

*God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve
Hate the sin, love the sinner
Pray the gay away*

- > Influenced by:
- > Stereotype:
- > Need:

Confidence in God's Truth

Two Book Resources

- > *Is God Anti Gay?* (Sam Allberry)
- > *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* (Kevin DeYoung)

Biblical Texts on Homosexuality

> OT: Gen. 19:5; Judges 19:22; Lev. 18:21-22; Lev. 20:13

> NT: Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10; Jude 1:7; 2 Peter 2:6-8

Leviticus 18:22 (ESV)

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

1 Corinthians 6:9 (ESV)

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality.

> Some observations:

1. The condemnation is for homosexual acts
2. What was stated in the Old Testament is affirmed in New Testament
3. The whole tenor and biblical view of homosexual activity is negative (sinful), so to promote it or affirm it is to go contrary to God's will.

Biblical Theology

> Genesis 1 & 2: 2 genders to reflect both equality and complementarity

Genesis 2:24

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

> One flesh: *distinct yet together, one. The sexual bond is an expression of this equality, complementarity, distinct, yet one.*

> Procreating: making more image bearers that reflect the Trinity

Matthew 19:4-6 (ESV)

"He answered, 'Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Putting Together Biblical Texts & Biblical Theology

The Bible never says anything positive about homosexual activity/behavior. It is never affirmed or encouraged. It never even cracks the door that it might be okay at some point in the future when it is more culturally acceptable. So any argument for homosexuality from the Bible has to be an argument from silence.

For those with SSA...

Gospel-Filled Grace

The Big Question: *If we are followers of Jesus, then how would he treat people?*

Do We Really Understand the Gospel? (Ephesians 2:1-10)

What We Need to See Happen

- > Educate ourselves
- > Engage
- > Challenge each other
- > Open a path

Resources on Homosexuality

- > *Is God Anti-Gay* by Sam Allberry
- > *Love Into Light* by Peter Hubbard
- > *What Does the Bible Teach about Homosexuality?* by Kevin DeYoung
- > *A Christian Response to Homosexuality* by Christopher Yuan
<http://bit.ly/1KvSOX1>