

## FAQ

**Rules for Dialoguing with Grace and Truth:**

- What does the Bible say?
- Am I expecting those who aren't committed to Christ to obey Him?
- Am I treating homosexual sin differently than heterosexual sin?
- How can I demonstrate irrational love to those with whom I disagree?
- Do they know what I believe and how much I care?
- Can I help this person understand "tolerance?"
- What can I do to build this relationship?
- Is this person treating sexual pleasure like a human right or an idol?
- Am I trying to "win" an argument through social media or keyboard courage?

**What To Say When Asked:**

- I am devoted to Christ.
- I believe the Bible.
- I believe the Bible is clear.
- But I don't expect those who aren't devoted to Christ to obey Him.
- Yet I believe God's ways are best for everyone - even when it is hard.
- So I may disagree, but I respect someone's right to choose whether or not to submit to God and the Bible.
- And isn't that what tolerance really is about? Disagreeing with respect?
- This really isn't about homosexuality but all sexual sin.

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY?

**Genesis 19**

- This is not consensual, monogamous homosexual sex.
- This story can't be used to prove that all homosexual behavior is sinful.
- This chapter doesn't condemn or approve consensual, monogamous homosexuality.

**Leviticus 18:22 & 20:13**

What type of sexual sin is this?

- The issue is clearly gender. Two of the same gender are not to be involved sexually.

- Both men are held responsible. This is not like Genesis 19.

Do we follow Old Testament laws?

- There is nothing in the New Testament that indicates the moral laws of the Old Testament no longer apply to us.
- Jesus, Paul and Peter repeated Levitical moral laws that apply to us.
- The laws of homosexual behavior are repeated in the New Testament.

**Romans 1:24-27**

- Paul condemns sexual relationships with the same gender.
- They were "inflamed with lust for one another." This is speaking of a consensual sexual relationship.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

- Homosexuality is serious and sinful.
- Homosexuality is not a lifestyle to be celebrated but a sin to be forgiven.
- Homosexuality is not inescapable.

**1 Timothy 1:8-11**

- Why do we want to exclude one of these from the list and say it is no longer sinful?
- Paul condemns the activity of homosexuality - not same-sex attraction.

**Conclusions:**

- The Bible's teaching is consistently clear - God forbids homosexual activity.
- God condemns every form of sexual activity outside of marriage between husband and wife.
- The beauty of the Gospel is that every sin can be forgiven and doesn't need to define you.
- Your sin issue may be your life-long struggle, but it doesn't need to be your identity.

## RETHINKING OUR RESPONSES

## Review:

- The Bible's teaching is consistently clear - God forbids homosexual activity.
- God condemns every form of sexual activity outside of marriage between husband and wife.
- Our culture is not guided by the Bible but by their feelings, experiences, and opinions.

## How We Are to Respond: (Titus 3:1-3)

- Be obedient
- Do good
- Be peaceable
- Be considerate
- Be gentle

## Questions to Ask Yourself:

- Am I focused more on how I am being treated than how I am treating others?
- Am I targeting less common forms of sin while ignoring more popular categories of sin?
- Am I expecting people to obey Christ who aren't committed to following Him?
- Am I responding to this homosexual sin the same way I would respond to a heterosexual sin?
- Am I committed to suffering well?

## Rethinking Our Responses:

- How you say what you say is as important as what you say.
- Avoid common statements that lose credibility.
  - "God created Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve."
  - "Your homosexuality is a choice."
  - "Homosexual sin leads to other sexual sins."
  - "If you repent, God will take your homosexual desires away."
  - "God loves the sinner but hates the sin."
- Remember that same-sex attractions are not the same as same-sex actions.
- We must be the safest place in the world for the sexually broken.

## How to Be a Safe Place for the Sexually Broken:

- Our first response must be compassion not condemnation.
- We should treat Christians who fight same-sex attraction as wounded soldiers not damaged goods.

## Why We Must Be a Safe Place for the Sexually Broken:

- This person didn't choose this struggle.
- Their suffering is the result of unanswered prayer.
- No physical option feels hopeful.

ANSWERING OBJECTIONS  
WITH GRACE & TRUTH

**OBJECTION #1:** "Homosexuality is only mentioned a few times. Why is it such a big deal?"

- It wasn't a common sin among God's people.
- We shouldn't judge how serious a sin is based on how often it was mentioned.
- Although only mentioned directly six times, it is clear and consistent in its condemnation.

**OBJECTION #2:** "Homosexuality condemned in the Bible wasn't committed and monogamous."

- Read the passages - mutual homosexuality is clearly in view.
- The word used twice in the New Testament is a compound word meaning "male intercourse."
- Only those who try to reconcile the Bible and homosexual behavior read the passages as exploitative.

**OBJECTION #3:** "Aren't we all sinners? Why are we talking about this one?"

- We must take every sin seriously, not just the sins we don't like or practice.
- We talk about this sin because our culture is working hard to normalize it.
- Every sin must be confessed and abandoned - not normalized and embraced.

**OBJECTION #4:** "I was born this way. How can it be wrong?"

- Avoid calling it a "choice." You lose credibility when you make an overly simplistic argument.
- All of us have natural propensities to certain sins (anger, pride, homosexuality).
- Natural inclinations do not make a sin less sinful.

**OBJECTION #5:** "Jesus never condemned homosexuality. Why should we?"

- Jesus talked about sexual immorality, and everyone in the Jewish culture would know that includes homosexuality.
- Jesus reaffirmed that marriage is for a man and a woman.
- He told his disciples if they didn't like the parameters for marriage God created, they could choose singleness instead.

**OBJECTION #6:** "My God is a God of love. He wouldn't oppose this."

- Love is not God's only attribute.
- We can't emphasize part of His character while ignoring His clear commands.
- God is love - which means whatever He commands is truly most loving.