

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THE LGBT MOVEMENT (PART 2)

Introduction – The Bible teaches that our sexuality is a gift from God. Its purpose is for one man and one woman to create one flesh (godly offspring) in the covenant of marriage. Our responsibility is to speak the truth in love to the diverse community that labels itself LGBT.

A. The sexual prohibitions in the Levitical code

Leviticus 18:1-28

1. Egyptians sanctioned incestuous marriages and the Canaanites were known in the ancient world for their deviant sexual behavior. The worship of Baal and Asherah was so detestable that the land vomited these inhabitants out.
2. Notice how it forbids every type of incestuous relationship, adultery, sex during a woman's monthly period since it was impossible to get pregnant at that time, male homosexuality, child sacrifice, and bestiality.
3. Leviticus 20:13
4. Leviticus 19:17-18
5. Some note that the same biblical material that forbids male homosexuality also forbids wearing clothing woven with two kinds of material, having tattoos on one's body or trimming beards in certain ways (Leviticus 19:19, 27, 28).
6. Incest is a good test case on the relevance of this biblical material for us today (1 Corinthians 5).

B. Some say Jesus said nothing about LGBT sexual activity. They say Jesus rejected the purity laws of the Old Testament.

Mark 7:14-23

C. They argue that LGBT is an inborn sexual orientation that is God given and cannot be changed.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

1. The two Greek words are *malakoi* (which means soft or effeminate) and *arenokoital* (which means man bedders in an active sense). The second word appears to have been created by Paul from two words used in the translation of Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 found in the Greek translation (LXX-Septuagint) of the original Hebrew text.

2. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Conclusion – The Bible calls for us all to repent, turning to God in seeking his forgiveness and transformative power. We all have inborn sinful inclinations that we must reject and struggle with. We offer not just our hearts to God but our bodies in worship.

Romans 12:1-2

Discussion Questions

1. Why does most Old and New Testament material address only male homosexual activity?
2. How would you answer the objection that there are many Old Testament purity laws we do not follow as New Testament Christians, so why include the prohibition of male-on-male sexual activity?
3. What is a good response to the objection that some think they were born with their LGBT sexual orientation?