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Homosexuality

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# **A Note From The Pastor:**

This booklet contains two different articles from two different authors on the subject of homosexuality. Both are reprinted and redistributed by Abundant Grace Fellowship with the permission of the authors. The first article emphasizes the Biblical perspective of why Christians must conclude that homosexuality is a sin and not an alternative lifestyle. The second emphasizes the medical and scientific data that refutes the false claims of the homosexual community that homosexuality is a biological trait and not merely a choice.

In reprinting and redistributing these articles we are by no means giving a general endorsement of these authors or of their convictions in other areas of doctrine. They may have written other articles on other Bible subjects in which we may disagree doctrinally. Our offering these articles on homosexuality can be understood to be an endorsement of the conclusions of these men only on the subject of homosexuality. We believe the convictions presented in these articles on homosexuality are scriptural and should be embraced by all true believers.

Douglas L. Crook

# Homosexuality

## A Christian Perspective

### What The Bible Teaches About Homosexuality

Assuming that one accepts the Bible to be the Word of God, and as such the final authority on issues it discusses, what then does it have to say about the subject of homosexuality? Consider the following...

#### **HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT WAS “A GRIEVOUS SIN” IN THE DAYS OF THE PATRIARCHS**

In **Gen 19:24-28**, the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah is described. The apostle Peter explains that this unique judgment upon these two cities was to serve as an example:

**“and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;” (2 Pe 2:6)**

Why was Sodom and Gomorrah chosen to be an example of God’s ultimate judgment upon the ungodly? What were they doing that made them so different from other ungodly cities at that time? Here is what Abraham was told:

**“And the LORD said, ‘Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous,’” (Gen 18:20)**

What was their “sin” that was “very grievous?” I have heard homosexual theologians try to explain that the sin was their lack of hospitality. Is such the case? Well, consider the text...

**“...the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house.” (Gen 19:4)**

Note first of all that “all the people” from the city are seeking to participate in whatever the “sin” is...

**“And they called to Lot and said to him, ‘Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally.’” (Gen 19:5)**

The word “carnally” is not in the actual Hebrew text, but is supplied by the translators because the word “know” as used here is often a euphemism for sexual relations (e.g., **Gen 4:1,17**). Lot’s reaction to this crowd certainly suggests that is how he understood the crowd’s request...

**“So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him and said, ‘Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!’” (Gen 19:6-7)**

It is apparent that Lot understood their intentions were not honorable. The next statement by Lot is hard to understand, but maybe it expresses his concept of hospitality in that he was willing to suffer personal loss rather than allow it to happen to his guests...

**“See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof.” (Gen 19:8)**

Lot’s amazing offer of his two daughters at least confirms that he understood the crowd’s intentions were sexual in nature. But notice also that Lot explains that his original hospitality to these two strangers (cf. **Gen 19:1-3**) was precisely to protect from the sort of homosexual rape the crowd was intent on inflicting. The crowd’s response to Lot’s pleas is also insightful...

**“And they said, ‘Stand back!’ Then they said, ‘This one came in to sojourn, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them.’ So they pressed hard against Lot, and came near to break down the door.” (Gen 19:9)**

Their reaction is somewhat similar to many today who say to those who would dare point out

sinful conduct, “Who are you to judge?” People haven’t really changed much, have they? What such people fail to realize, is that when you point out what the Word of God says about certain conduct, YOU are not judging them, it is the WORD OF GOD that is judging them. In return, they themselves are trying to avoid the condemnation of the MESSAGE of God by condemning the MESSENGER! That homosexuality was the “grievous sin” to which the Lord referred to in **Gen 18:20** becomes even more apparent when we consider what is said in the New Testament about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. For example, Jude wrote:

**“as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” (Jude 7)**

Notice that Jude describes the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah as **“sexual immorality”** and **“going after strange flesh”**. Nothing about it being a lack of hospitality! Only those desperate to justify their homosexual conduct would fail to see what the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah really was.

## **HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT WAS “A CAPITAL CRIME” UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES**

I am grateful that we are no longer under the Law of Moses, with its extremely harsh punishments (though under the New Covenant much harsher punishments for similar crimes unrepented of are simply delayed till the Day of Judgment, cf. **He 10:26-31**). But as Paul wrote to the Romans:

**“Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.” (Ro 7:12)**

He also wrote later that it was **“written for our learning” (Ro 15:4)**. So what can we learn from the Law about God’s view of homosexual conduct? In Leviticus, we read:

**“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.” (Lev 18:22)**

Can it be any clearer? Homosexual conduct is “an abomination” to the Lord! Together with “bestiality” (**Lev 18:23**) it was one of the sins that justified God in giving the land of Canaan to the Israelites, for the previous occupants were guilty of such sins (**Lev 18:24-25**). Also, the Israelites were warned that if they engaged in the same kind of sins, they too would be “vomited out” of the land (**Lev 18:26-30**). More is said later in the book of Leviticus...

**“If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.” (Lev 20:13)**

Again, I stress that according to the New Testament we are not under the Law of Moses; but what we learn here is that while the Law was in effect, without question homosexuality was clearly a grave offense, even worthy of death! But what about the New Testament? What does it say?

### **THE NEW TESTAMENT IS CLEAR IN ITS CONDEMNATION OF HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT**

To the church of God which was at Corinth, Paul wrote:

**“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.” (1 Co 6:9-10)**

In this passage, Paul uses two terms that are translated above as “homosexuals” and “sodomites.” The first term, translated “homosexuals” (“effeminate” in the KJV) is “**malakos**”, and is defined as:

**“effeminate, of a catamite, a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness” (THAYER)**

The word translated as “sodomites” (“abusers of themselves with mankind” in the KJV) is arsenokoitai, and is defined as: **“one who lies with a male as with a female, a sodomite” (THAYER)**

Paul’s warning not to be deceived is very appropriate even today, for some homosexual theologians would have us believe that Paul was only condemning male prostitution. Whereas the first word (malakos) does properly speak of a male prostitute, the second word (arsenokoitai) describes any sort of homosexual conduct. Despite such efforts to twist the Scriptures and deceive many, the Word of God is clear: those who continue to engage in homosexuality (*without repentance that leads to accepting Jesus as their Savior: Editor’s note for clarification*) will not inherit the kingdom of God!

[The next verse (**1 Co 6:11**) gives great hope, however, for anyone trapped in the sin of homosexuality, which we shall examine more closely in a later lesson.]

Paul also uses the word **“arsenokoitai”** (the generic term for homosexual conduct) as an example of that which is:

**“...contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.” (1 Ti 1:10-11)**

Since the “sound doctrine” of the gospel of Christ condemns even sexual relations between unmarried heterosexuals, it should not be hard to understand that sex between unmarried homosexuals is wrong as well! As for “married” homosexuals, the institution of marriage which was begun and defined by God only allows for sex between a man and a woman (cf. **Gen 2:24; Mt 19:4-6**). The “classic” passage which deals with the sin of homosexual conduct is that of **Ro 1:18-28**. In this passage, Paul discusses the wrath of God which is directed toward those who do not honor God:

**“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

**“because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.**

**“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,**

**“because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but**

became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

**“Professing to be wise, they became fools,  
and changed the glory of the incorruptible  
God into an image made like corruptible man-  
and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping  
things.”**

**(Ro 1:18-23)** The righteous indignation of God is directed toward those who reject the clear evidence of God’s existence and power as revealed in nature, and if religious at all, make God over into an image of their own choosing. Whereas today we are too “sophisticated” to fall for thinking that God is like a graven image, there is ever the tendency to “recreate God in our own image,” so that He thinks like us, and acts like us (one would do well to read **Isa 55:8,9**).

How does God express His righteous indignation, short of bringing about the Judgment Day? Paul tells us as he continues:

**“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.” (Ro 1:24-25)**

Rather than bringing about the Judgment Day, or striking them down with a bolt out of the sky,

God has expressed His righteous indignation by “giving them up” to moral uncleanness. In other words, those who are not willing to honor God as God are simply allowed to degenerate into moral decay! To illustrate, Paul continues...

**“For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.” (Ro 1:26)**

Here is a strong allusion to lesbianism, where women cease to appreciate that their bodies are naturally designed physically for sex with men and for procreation, and who think of “our bodies, ourselves” solely as instruments of “vile passions” for one another. In regards to men whom God has “given up” to uncleanness, Paul writes:

**“Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.” (Ro 1:27)**

In similar fashion, many of those men who have been “given up” by God to uncleanness eventually leave the “natural use of the woman” and turn to other men to fulfill their lustful desires. As Paul reiterates in the next verse:

**“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a**

**debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;” (Ro 1:28)**

Three times in this section we find the expression **“God gave them up (over)” (Ro 1:24,26,28)**. The point is clear: when people choose to reject God, or to recreate Him in their own image, God “gives them up” to “go their own way.” Unrestrained by God in any way, they gravitate into increasing levels of immorality! For some, it involves hetero- sexual immorality, such as pre-marital sex or adultery. But for others, it includes homosexuality and lesbianism. And what is the consequence of such behavior? The apostle Paul referred to such people as:

**“...receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.” (Ro 1:27)**

An illusion to sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS? We cannot say for certain, but none can dispute that those who are willing to follow God’s Word as to sexual conduct have less to fear about STD’s than those who choose to disregard Him!

### **Conclusion**

God’s basic principles of righteousness have remained constant throughout the different periods of Bible history. For example, adultery has always been condemned by God. Likewise, we have seen that homosexuality has been identified as:

A “grievous sin” in the times of the Patriarchs  
An “abomination” in the Law of Moses

“Shameful,” indicative of “a debased mind,”  
and “contrary to sound doctrine, according to the  
glorious gospel” of Jesus Christ

I can understand that those who do not believe in God or who do not accept the Bible as the Word of God would strongly disagree with such an evaluation of homosexuality. But I fear that only those with “hardened hearts” would profess to believe the Bible to be God’s Word and still approve of homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle that has God’s blessings. May those who profess to accept the Bible as the last word never hesitate to accept what it says, no matter how “politically incorrect” our society might say it is.

If there is one passage of Scripture which summarizes God's view of homosexuality, then it is that found in Paul's letter to a church which was in a city famous for its sexual immorality:

**"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."**

**"And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were**

**justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."**

**(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)**

In this passage we find both condemnation and hope. Homosexuality and sodomy are condemned as sin, but hope is seen in that those who engaged in such can find forgiveness and the ability to change through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. May God be praised!

As children of God, let those of us who are disciples of Christ not renege on our responsibility concerning this sin which is becoming more acceptable in our society. It is my prayer that this material may be used in the service of God by others to:

Teach the truth in love

Expose homosexuality for the sin that it is

Lovingly accept and assist those who come to Jesus in an effort to overcome this tenacious sin

May God give us the grace to do so, in a spirit becoming of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

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# What Causes Homosexual Desire and Can It Be Changed?

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Most of us fail to understand why anyone would want to engage in homosexual activity. To the average person, the very idea is either puzzling or repugnant. Indeed, a recent survey (1) indicated that only 14% of men and 10% of women imagined that such behavior could hold any "possibility of enjoyment."

The peculiar nature of homosexual desire has led some people to conclude that this urge must be innate: that a certain number of people are "born that way," that sexual preferences cannot be changed or even ended. What does the best research really indicate? Are homosexual proclivities natural or irresistible?

At least three answers seem possible. The first, the answer of tradition, is as follows: homosexual behavior is a bad habit that people fall into because they are sexually permissive and

experimental. This view holds that homosexuals choose their lifestyle as the result of self-indulgence and an unwillingness to play by society rules. The second position is held by a number of psychoanalysts (e.g., Bieber, Socarides). According to them, homosexual behavior is a mental illness, symptomatic of arrested development. They believe that homosexuals have unnatural or perverse desires as a consequence of poor familial relations in childhood or some other trauma. The third view is "biological" and holds that such desires are genetic or hormonal in origin, and that there is no choice involved and no "childhood trauma" necessary.

Which of these views is most consistent with the facts? Which tells us the most about homosexual behavior and its origins? The answer seems to be that homosexual behavior is learned. The following **seven** lines of evidence support such a conclusion.

**1) No researcher has found provable biological or genetic differences between heterosexuals and homosexuals that weren't caused by their behavior**

Occasionally you may read about a scientific study that suggests that homosexuality is an inherited tendency, but such studies have usually been discounted after careful scrutiny or attempts

at replication. No one has found a single heredible genetic, hormonal or physical difference between heterosexuals and homosexuals - at least none that is replicable. (9, 12) While the absence of such a discovery doesn't prove that inherited sexual tendencies aren't possible, it suggests that none has been found because none exists.

## **2) People tend to believe that their sexual desires and behaviors are learned**

Two large studies asked homosexual respondents to explain the origins of their desires and behaviors - how they "got that way." The first of these studies was conducted by Kinsey in the 1940s and involved 1700 homosexuals. The second, in 1970, (4) involved 979 homosexuals. Both were conducted prior to the period when the "gay rights" movement started to politicize the issue of homosexual origins. Both reported essentially the same findings: Homosexuals overwhelmingly believed their feelings and behavior were the result of social or environmental influences.

In a 1983 study conducted by the Family Research Institute (5) (FRI) involving a random sample of 147 homosexuals, 35% said their sexual desires were hereditary. Interestingly, almost 80% of the 3,400 heterosexuals in the same study said that their preferences and behavior were learned (see Table 1 below).

## **Table 1**

### **Reasons For Preferring:**

#### **homosexuality (1940s and 1970)**

early homosexual experience(s) with adults and/or peers - 22%

homosexual friends/ around homosexuals a lot - 16%

poor relationship with mother - 15%

unusual development (was a sissy, artistic, couldn't get along with own sex, tom-boy, et cetera) - 15%

poor relationship with father - 14%

heterosexual partners unavailable - 12%

social ineptitude - 9%

born that way - 9%

#### **heterosexuality (1983)**

I was around heterosexuals a lot - 39%

society teaches heterosexuality and I responded - 34%

born that way - 22%

my parents, marriage was so good I wanted to have what they had - 21%

I tried it and liked it - 12%

childhood heterosexual experiences with peers it was the "in thing" in my crowd - 9%

I was seduced by a heterosexual adult - 5%

While these results aren't conclusive, they tell something about the very recent tendency to believe that homosexual behavior is inherited or

biologic. From the 1930s (when Kinsey started collecting data) to the early 1970s, before a "politically correct" answer emerged, only about 10% of homosexuals claimed they were "born that way." Heterosexuals apparently continue to believe that their behavior is primarily a result of social conditioning.

### **3) Older homosexuals often approach the young**

There is evidence that homosexuality, like drug use is "handed down" from older individuals. The first homosexual encounter is usually initiated by an older person. In separate studies 60%, (6) 64%, (3) and 61% (10) of the respondents claimed that their first partner was someone older who initiated the sexual experience.

How this happens is suggested by a nationwide random study from Britain: (17) 35% of boys and 9% of girl said they were approached for sex by adult homosexuals. Whether for attention, curiosity, or by force, 2% of the boys and 1% of the girls succumbed. In the US, (1) 37% of males and 9% of females reported having been approached for homosexual sex (65% of those doing the inviting were older). Likewise, a study of over 400 London teenagers reported that "for the boys, their first homosexual experience was very likely with someone older: half the boys'

first partner were 20 or older; for girls it was 43 percent." (13) A quarter of homosexuals have admitted to sex with children and underaged teens, (6,5,8) suggesting the homosexuality is introduced to youngsters the same way other behaviors are learned - by experience.

#### **4) Early homosexual experiences influence adult patterns of behavior**

In the 1980s, scholars (12) examined the early Kinsey data to determine whether or not childhood sexual experiences predicted adult behavior. The results were significant: Homosexual experience in the early year, particularly if it was one's first sexual experience - was a strong predictor of adult homosexual behavior, both for males and females. A similar pattern appeared in the 1970 Kinsey Institute (4) study: there was a strong relationship between those whose first experience was homosexual and those who practiced homosexuality in later life. In the FRI study (5) two-thirds of the boys whose first experience was homosexual engaged in homosexual behavior as adults; 95% of those whose first experience was heterosexual were likewise heterosexual in their adult behavior. A similarly progressive pattern of sexual behavior was reported for females.

It is remarkable that the three largest empirical studies of the question showed essentially the

same pattern. A child's first sexual experiences were strongly associated with his or her adult behavior.

### **5) Sexual conduct is influenced by cultural factors - especially religious convictions**

Kinsey reported "less homosexual activity among devout groups whether they be Protestant, Catholic, or Jewish, and more homosexual activity among religiously less active groups." (2) The 1983 FRI study found those raised in irreligious homes to be over 4 times more likely to become homosexual than those from devout homes. These studies suggest that when people believe strongly that homosexual behavior is immoral, they are significantly less apt to be involved in such activity.

Recently, because of the AIDS epidemic, it has been discovered that, relative to white males, twice as many black males are homosexual (14) and 4 times as many are bisexual. Perhaps it is related to the fact that 62% of black versus 17% of white children are being raised in fatherless homes. But even the worst racist wouldn't suggest that it is due to genetic predisposition.

Were homosexual impulses truly inherited, we should be unable to find differences in homosexual practice due to religious upbringing or racial sub-culture.

### **6) Many change their sexual preferences**

In a large random sample (5) 88% of women currently claiming lesbian attraction and 73% of men claiming to currently enjoy homosexual sex, said that they had been sexually aroused by the opposite sex,

85% of these "lesbians" and 54% of these "homosexuals" reported sexual relations with someone of the opposite sex in adulthood,

67% of lesbians and 54% of homosexuals reported current sexual attraction to the opposite sex, and

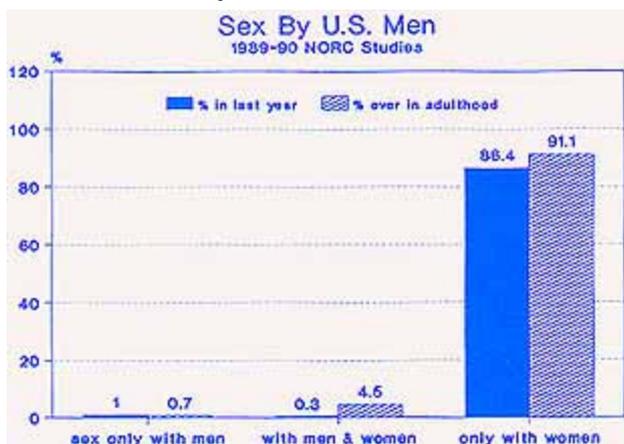
82% of lesbians and 66% of homosexuals reported having been in love with a member of the opposite sex.

Homosexuals experiment. They feel some normal impulses. Most have been sexually aroused by, had sexual relations with, and even fallen in love with someone of the opposite sex.

Nationwide random samples (11) of 904 men were asked about their sex lives since age 21, and more specifically, in the last year. As the figure reveals, 1.3% reported sex with men in the past year and 5.2% at some time in adulthood. Less than 1% of men had only had sex with men during their lives. And 6 of every 7 who had had sex with men, also reported sex with women.

It's a much different story with inherited characteristics. Race and gender are not optional lifestyles. They remain immutable. The switching

and experimentation demonstrated in these two studies identifies homosexuality as a preference, not an inevitability.



### 7) There are many ex-homosexuals

Many engage in one or two homosexual experiences and never do it again—a pattern reported for a third of the males with homosexual experience in one study. (1) And then there are ex-homosexuals - those who have continued in homosexual liaisons for a number of years and then chose to change not only their habits, but also the object of their desire. Sometimes this alteration occurs as the result of psychotherapy; (10) in others it is prompted by a religious or spiritual conversion. (18) Similar to the kinds of "cures" achieved by drug addicts and alcoholics, these treatments do not always remove homosexual desire or temptation. Whatever the mechanism, in a 1984 study (5) almost 2% of

heterosexuals reported that at one time they considered themselves to be homosexual. It is clear that a substantial number of people are reconsidering their sexual preferences at any given time.

### **What causes homosexual desire?**

If homosexual impulses are not inherited, what kinds of influences do cause strong homosexual desires? No one answer is acceptable to all researchers in the field. Important factors, however, seem to fall into four categories. As with so many other odd sexual proclivities, males appear especially susceptible:

#### **1. Homosexual experience:**

any homosexual experience in childhood, especially if it is a first sexual experience or with an adult

any homosexual contact with an adult, particularly with a relative or authority figure (in a random survey, 5% of adult homosexuals vs 0.8% of heterosexuals reported childhood sexual involvements with elementary or secondary school teachers (5).

#### **2. Family abnormality, including the following:**

a dominant, possessive, or rejecting mother  
an absent, distant, or rejecting father

a parent with homosexual proclivities, particularly one who molests a child of the same sex

a sibling with homosexual tendencies, particularly one who molests a brother or sister

the lack of a religious home environment

divorce, which often leads to sexual problems for both the children and the adults

parents who model unconventional sex roles

condoning homosexuality as a legitimate lifestyle—welcoming homosexuals (e.g., co-workers, friends) into the family circle

### **3. Unusual sexual experience, particularly in early childhood:**

precocious or excessive masturbation

exposure to pornography in childhood

depersonalized sex (e.g., group sex, sex with animals)

or girls, sexual interaction with adult males

### **4. Cultural influences:**

a visible and socially approved homosexual sub-culture that invites curiosity and encourages exploration

pro-homosexual sex education

openly homosexual authority figures, such as teachers (4% of Kinsey's and 4% of FRI's gays reported that their first homosexual experience was with a teacher)

societal and legal toleration of homosexual acts

depictions of homosexuality as normal and/or desirable behavior

### **Can homosexuality be changed?**

Certainly. As noted above, many people have turned away from homosexuality - almost as many people call themselves "gay."

Clearly the easier problem to eliminate is homosexual behavior. Just as many heterosexuals control their desires to engage in premarital or extramarital sex, so some with homosexual desires discipline themselves to abstain from homosexual contact.

One thing seems to stand out: Associations are all-important. Anyone who wants to abstain from homosexual behavior should avoid the company of practicing homosexuals. There are organizations including "ex-gay ministries, " (18) designed to help those who wish to reform their conduct. Psychotherapy claims about a 30% cure rate, and religious commitment seems to be the most helpful factor in avoiding homosexual habits.

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