

## Homosexuality: Caring for Family and Friends

### I. Introduction

A. Ministering to family and friends is becoming a great need in the church.

1. Affecting us personally.
2. The Church is reforming her attitude and understanding.

B. Homosexuality is our topic vs. same-sex attraction.

1. Homosexuality; given over to idolatry.
2. Same-sex attraction, e.g., mature Christian, church member, leader, glorifying God.

C. Needful to have an overall understanding.

1. Knowing right and wrong: God has revealed it.<sup>1</sup>
2. Marriage is unassailable.<sup>2</sup>
3. Homosexuality has a cause: sin.<sup>3</sup>
4. The Bible passages.

Old Testament	
Genesis 19:1-29	Destruction of Sodom
Leviticus 18:22; 20:13	Holiness Code
Ezekiel 16:44-50	Cultural Influences

<sup>1</sup> Ps 40:8; Prv 20:27; Acts 2:37; Rom 2:14-16; 13:5; 2 Cor 4:1, 2

<sup>2</sup> Gn 1:26, 27; 2:15-25; Eph 5:23-25; Rv 19:7

<sup>3</sup> Gn 3; 6:5; 8:21; Ex 20:3, 14; Jb 14:4; Ps 51:2; Mk 7:21, 22; Rom 1:25-32; 5:12-21; Jam 1:14

New Testament	
<i>Romans 1:25-27</i>	<i>Idolatry/Unnatural Function/Given Over</i>
1 Corinthians 6:9-11	Not Inheriting the Kingdom of God
1 Timothy 1:8-11	Violation of God's Law: 7 <sup>th</sup> Commandment <sup>4</sup>
2 Peter 2:4-10	Open Sexual Immorality
Jude 6, 7	Given Over to Sexual Sin

5. The process of change.<sup>5</sup>

D. Good teaching.

1. Similarity to other teaching (about homosexuality).<sup>6</sup>

2. Unique from most other teaching (about homosexuality).<sup>7</sup>

E. Resources.

1. Audios.

- a. IBCD 2016 Summer Institute audio: "Disordered Desires: Bringing Grace to Modern Sexuality."
- b. ACBC 2015 Annual Conference audio: "Homosexuality: Compassion, Care, and Counsel for Struggling People."

2. Books.

- a. *Transforming Homosexuality: What the Bible Says about Sexual Orientation and Change*, Heath Lambert and Denny Burke.
- b. *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey into Christian Faith*, Rosaria Butterfield.

3. Booklets.

- a. *Is God anti-gay? And Other Questions about Homosexuality, the Bible, and Same-Sex Attraction*, Sam Allberry.

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<sup>4</sup> Ex 20:14; Mt 5:27-30

<sup>5</sup> 2 Cor 3:18; 2 Tm 3:16, 17

<sup>6</sup> Mt 22:39, 40; Lk 10:30-37; Jn 7:17; 15:12, 13; 1 Jn 4:7-10

<sup>7</sup> Rom 1:15, 16

- b. *Coming Out: Compassion and Truth for Freedom From Homosexuality*, Tom Maxham.
- c. *Help! I Want to Change*, Jim Newheiser.

## II. For family and friends

A. Family and friends of a loved one should first remember the gospel.

- 1. When we were weak, ungodly, sinners, and enemies, Christ died for us.<sup>8</sup>
- 2. Remember this is primarily an issue with God and not you personally.

B. Wisdom is available for this trial.

- 1. By turning to God and His word, especially in a trial.<sup>9</sup>
- 2. Making a humble plan for all trials.<sup>10</sup>

C. Loved ones need support from a friend or pastor.

D. All sons and daughters.

- 1. The ultimate outcome of children is not determined by the parents.<sup>11</sup>

E. Teenagers.

- 1. A teen homosexual is a formidable problem.
- 2. Much positively can be done to help.
- 3. The parents' authority over a child is to be progressively replaced with relationship.

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<sup>8</sup> Jer 17:9; Rom 3:9-18; 5:6-10

<sup>9</sup> Prv 3:5; Jam 1:5-8

<sup>10</sup> 1 Pt 5:6, 7

<sup>11</sup> Isa 1:2, 3; Ez 18:1-4; Rom 11:36; Eph 6:4

4. Provocations should be investigated.

F. Adult son or daughter.

1. The homosexual community is very influential.

2. Loved ones response to the individual coming out.

3. Many interactions not a matter of right or wrong, but require grace and wisdom.<sup>12</sup>

4. Be watchful for potential harm to your family.<sup>13</sup>

5. Church discipline.<sup>14</sup>

G. Spouse.

1. In destructive cases, a spouse may have been purposefully deceptive.

2. A spouse may disclose a struggle with same-sex attraction which is very different.<sup>15</sup>

H. Friendship.

1. Healthy same-sex friendships are often missing in the life of the homosexual.

### III. Final thoughts

A. Homosexuality is far from unchangeable.<sup>16</sup>

B. Worshipping and serving the Creator is our goal.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Mt 5:43-48; Rom 12:17-21; Jam 3:17

<sup>13</sup> Jam 1:6-8

<sup>14</sup> Mt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 5

<sup>15</sup> Gal 6:1

<sup>16</sup> Rom 9:15, 16; 10:2; Col 1:28; 1 Thes 2:8

<sup>17</sup> Rom 1:25