

Is homosexuality natural?

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Before venturing to answer, it is important to understand both the assumptions and implications posed by the question “Is homosexuality natural?” A scripture in the New Testament reads “... even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another...” Romans 1:26-27. This use of the word “natural” is meant to conjure impressions of “normal” and “right. On the other hand, a person arguing that homosexuality is natural often makes an argument based on genetics or psychology, and intend the meaning of natural as resulting from human physiology and psychology.

Is it genetic?

There will never be a “gay gene” and when you hear someone talk about it existing or not existing, you should feel free to turn your ears off. Scientists don’t have “scientist genes”, nor librarians “librarian genes”. However, this doesn’t mean genetics is entirely useless to understanding the roots of our expressions of sexuality.

So how might genetics contribute to a person’s subjective experience of being gay or straight? Our DNA contains the codes that instruct all the cells in our body how to behave. Though we experience a great deal of love and sex through our minds, anyone who has been in love knows that it is a bodily affair. Our bodies release encouraging hormones when we see potential mates behaving in ways that

indicate genetic fitness. Studies have shown that we are more likely to consider someone attractive if they have a compatible immune system. If you peruse literature of that sort for enough time, you might be surprised how much your genetics plays a role in your romantic life- gay or straight.

Is it a choice?

When I visit the Gay Lesbian Straight Alliance group, most say they’ve been gay since they were young, that they love the same sex in the way straight people love the opposite sex, and that they didn’t intentionally decide to be unattracted to the same sex. Unless you have some reason to believe

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they’re lying or deceiving themselves, the case seems closed. What motivations do they have to fake it, in a culture where many are disgust-

ed, threatened, or afraid of homosexuality? Have you ever loved someone who didn’t love you back? What kind of a choice did you feel like you had? In a religious culture, almost anything is a choice. You choose not to eat because you’re fasting, or you choose not to marry or have sex and join a nunnery or the priesthood. So assuming radical self-denial; at least engaging in homosexual behavior is a choice.

Source:

<http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/sexual-orientation.aspx>