5 Most Common Errors on Homosexuality and How to Overcome Them

I remember his phone call when he outed himself to me. I had called my brother and told him of my plans to visit him.

Less than a minute after my call, he called me. He said that I would not want to come and see him because he was a homosexual.

I told him that I had known it for many years and assured him that his disclosure did not change my plans to visit him. Upon my arrival, I talked with him about his homosexuality and the Biblical response to it.

I did not know at that time that a tsunami of errors on homosexuality would soon bombard Christians, the same ones that my brother presented to me. This new groundswell spreads world-wide in its scope.

Promoters of these fallacies seek to mainstream this evil in the Christian Assembly. (1) This insidious wave threatens the Biblical foundations of Christ followers.

This movement builds its message upon at least 5 errors.

Error #1: Description of homosexuality

This movement developed a new description for homosexuality using several innovative terms:

- same sex attraction, or SSA;
- homosexual Christianity;
- homosexual orientation; and
- Christian homosexuality.

Do not let these terms mislead you. Regardless of the expressions, they describe the same thing: sexual lusts and the fulfillment of them with another person of the same sex.

Error #2: Definition of sin

The new homosexuals redefine their sin of homosexuality. They diminish it into a mere emotion, i.e., same sex attraction, or an orientation. Since they say, "God made me this way; I did not choose it," they assume the role of a victim.

Same sex attractions, i.e., orientation, become their "normal", uncontrollable, and unchangeable lifestyles.

However, to the new homosexuality, the term "same sex attraction" goes beyond mere admiration or emotion. It includes the desires to consummate their lusts in homosexual sex act(s).

This movement separates the lustful desires from the actual commission of homosexual activity. The new "Christian homosexuality" forbids the consummation of their desires, calling the commission of same sex act(s) sin in agreement with its Biblical condemnation.

But, this movement does not describe the desires, attractions, and orientation for it as sin. In fact, some of the literature from "Christian" same sex activists approves and encourages the "normal", sexual desire a person has for another person of the same sex.

These promoters even recommend physical expressions of affection and desire with a person of the same sex, if they do not complete homosexual sex together.

This separation of lust from consummation tries to "sanctify" same sex desires by making them acceptable and not sinful, which the Bible condemns.

Error #3: Design for acceptance

The "new homosexual Christianity" agrees with the Bible in its clear abomination of the homosexual act and denounces it as sin.

Then, this new homosexuality shifts attention from that agreement to push the acceptability of homosexual desires and orientation as normal and okay. "Christian homosexuals" claim the inability to change their "natural, normal affinities" to same sex attraction.

To this way of thought, attractions and orientation are not sin. It is an attempt to make same sex desires "normal", and thereby moral and acceptable to the Christian Assembly.

Error #4: Demands for the Assembly and assemblies

The new homosexuals list their demands upon the Christian Assembly and Christ followers:

- full acceptance and approval by believers of those who experience same sex desires and orientation without denunciation or change of their cravings or life styles.
- a new definition of the family; They claim that too much emphasis upon the
 heterosexual family of a father, mother, and children, makes the family an "idol". Now
 believers must accept the gathering of believers as the true and only family with full
 parental rights of adoption to homosexual "families". This movement also wants Christ
 honoring families to share their children with them. (2)

Error #5: Defense by "Christian" superstars

Many prominent leaders and organizations in the Christian Assembly have succumbed to the errors of the new homosexuality and endorse it, giving it credibility.

You will recognize some, if not all of them.

- Timothy Keller;
- Don Carson;
- Mark Dever;
- Ravi Zacharias:
- Albert Mohler;
- John Piper;
- Sam Alberry; and
- Russell Moore.

These leaders emphasize the importance of ministering to all sinners, including homosexuals, in need of the gospel, which is true. But, like the new "Christian homosexuals", they accept the new definition of homosexuality, same sex attraction and orientation, and condone it.

Although these allies condemn same sex acts, they do not identify the sinfulness of same sex lusts and orientation, nor do they direct attention to the Biblical condemnation of them. They avoid the Biblical demands for holiness in Christ followers.

Their involvement varies:

- vocal support of the new homosexuality;
- advocacy of the "Christian homosexual" agenda; and
- offering promotional opportunities to advocates of this movement.

I wish I could I say that this list includes all of them, but it does not. This insidious movement has captured the hearts and minds of many prominent leaders and organizations in the Christian Assembly. (3)

At this writing, my research reveals that the people and organizations on these lists have not separated themselves from their implied or actual agreement and support, nor have they denounced the evils inherent in the new homosexuality.

Have these 5 errors on homosexuality fooled you?

Where can Christ followers find clear discernment on these errors and direction on how they must respond?

Discover the best ways to overcome them.

Way #1: Primary basic belief

Christ followers must rely upon God's self-revelation of Himself and His will for mankind in His inspired, inerrant, infallible, and sufficient word, the Bible. This revelation is enough for all of life and Godliness. (4)

Therefore, Christ followers must examine God's word, not culture, for answers to this insidious onslaught.

Way #2: Ministry of Christ

Multitudes of homosexual activists claim that Jesus did not speak to homosexuality, same sex attraction, or homosexual orientation, and did not condemn either one. In addition, they claim that the Bible does not address either of these issues.

This argument depends upon an obvious logical fallacy, the argument from silence. A position based upon Biblical silence produces heresy. No one can promote nor defend an opinion, interpretation, or application based upon silence.

However, contrary to their claims, Jesus did comment on homosexuality and same sex desires, and He condemned them in clear, unmistakable terms. Further, the Bible does address inherent, "natural" same sex attractions and desires and how to overcome them.

• Pre-incarnation ministry of Christ

The existence and ministry of Christ did not begin with His Incarnation. He claimed existence before Abraham:

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, Verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." (5)

Jesus: Unique Life Before Birth?

Jesus exists in the eternal, triune God: 3 individual Persons, Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit, coexisting simultaneously. Thus, Christ took part with the triune God in the giving of the Law as recorded in the Old Testament and stamped His agreement with the Law prior to His Incarnation.

The 7th Commandment forbids adultery, usually a sexual relationship between a man and a woman.

The 10th Commandment expands adultery beyond mere completion of the sex act:

"...thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife...nor anything that is thy neighbor's." (6)

The term "covet" describes the exact emotions, attractions, and desires that the new homosexuals endorse and encourage as "normal". Note the definition of "covet":

- desire;
- crave;
- long for;
- find pleasure in;
- love; and
- passionately want. (7)

Therefore, the Old Testament Law, which Jesus confirmed, forbids not just the physical act of sexual immorality, but also the heart's sinful desires for a sexual consummation with another person.

Further, Jesus affirmed the abomination of homosexual sin outlawed in other Old Testament writings, which you can read <u>here</u>and <u>here</u>.

As one of the 3 Persons the triune God, Christ, in His preincarnation ministry, participated in giving commands against sexual immorality, including homosexuality, not just the acts but also the desires of the heart for them.

• Earthy ministry of Christ

In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ's teachings affect the issues of homosexuality and same sex desires and orientation.

1. Matthew 5.17:"...I have not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets...but to fulfill."

Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets: to give the true meaning of the Law and its real significance. (8)

2. **Matthew 5.20:** "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

The scribes and Pharisees interpreted the Law and the Prophets so that a breach of the Law did not occur until one committed an act in violation of the Law's demands, but did not include the desires of the heart.

Christ demands complete holiness in deed as well as inward longings.

3. **Matthew 5.27:** "You have heard it said thou shalt not commit adultery...But I say unto you..."

Jesus confirms the Old Testament Law that the sin of adultery exists in the heart and mind, even without physical completion of it.

4. Matthew 5.31:"It hath been said...But I say unto you..."

Here, Jesus explains the only cause for divorce: "fornication". Most of the time, fornication describes sexual intercourse between 2 unmarried, opposite sex people.

However, the original word interpreted "fornication" includes much more than this simple definition. It incorporates every form of sexual immorality. (See (9) for the complete definition.)

Yes, Jesus condemned all manner of sexual immorality, including homosexuality, lesbianism, and same sex marriage.

5. **Matthew 15.19:** "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications..."

Jesus addresses the dual issue of sinful desire and the link with fornication, as just defined. Jesus condemned not just the outward commission of homosexual and heterosexual sin, but also their sinful desires and orientation within a person prior to physical commission of that sin.

In His earthly ministry, Jesus taught that all sexual immorality, including homosexuality and lesbianism, involves more than just their physical act(s). He declared that the sin exists in the sinful nature and passions of the heart within a person even without its outward acts.

Sin subsists in everyone because of our original sin natures which we inherited from Adam and Eve. Thus, same sex attractions and orientation are in themselves sin since they exist and express one's inherent sinful nature.

Therefore, we need a new nature to replace the original sinful nature.

Mere abstinence from the sex act(s) does not absolve one from the sin(s) of sexual immorality.

Jesus' Controversial Attitude on Homosexuality

Post earthly ministry of Christ

At the close of His earthly ministry, Jesus made 2 important announcements. In John 14.15-26, He promised the coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell Christ followers. Christ said that He would come to His disciples through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, Who would remind them of all that He said to them, and teach and guide them into the truth.

In John 16.4-14, Christ outlined some of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in believers. Because Christ had much more to teach His disciples, which they could not bear at that time, He promised that the Holy Spirit would:

- guide them into all truth;
- not speak on His own authority;
- speak what He hears;
- take what belongs to Christ and declare it to them; and
- glorify Christ. (10)

The Epistles of the New Testament document Christ's messages by the Holy Spirit to His followers. These Epistles agree with Christ's demands and teachings recorded in the Gospels and further explain them.

Messages of the New Testament Epistles

1. References on the evil of homosexuality

The Holy Spirit moved upon the Apostle Paul and others to record the messages that the Spirit heard from the Father and the Lord Jesus on the condemnation of homosexuality. Here is a brief list of some of those references.

- Romans 1.26-28;
- 1 Corinthians 6.9-11; and
- 1 Timothy 1.8-11.

In addition, the Epistles include many references using the same word "fornication" interpreted "sexual immorality" as defined in the earlier section on **Matthew 5.31**. (11)

2. References on the evil of sexual desires

Just as Christ addressed the evil of the desires for sexual immorality, the Holy Spirit moved the writers of the New Testament Epistles to include condemnation of them, too. (12)

These numerous references apply to opposite sex desires as well as same sex desires. You can find a more complete explanation of these references at this link:

Sam Allberry's Desires Are Inherently Sinful

3. References on the removal of the sinful nature

As I mentioned in **Error #2: Definition of sin**, every human at conception inherits a sinful nature from Adam and Eve. This original sin nature permeates humans' lives and gives rise to lusts and to sins. Sinners are not sinners because they sin...they sin because they are sinners.

People live in bondage to their sinful natures. All sins in people's lives originate from the inherent sinful natures which exist in them. Mankind's only normal, natural desires are to sin. Humanity can do nothing but sin.

Thus, all sins, even one's sinful nature and orientation, feel "normal" because they are part of a person's nature. Although this describes a person's natural condition, it does not justify the appearament of one's inherent sinful condition.

All works of the flesh, i.e., sins, have their origin in humanity's original sinful condition and express it. (13) Same sex attraction and homosexual orientation were not normal to God's original creation of mankind. They deny His design and go against nature. (14)

Therefore, homosexuality, its attractions and orientation, originates from a person's inherent sinful nature. They do not come from God, nor does He make anyone homosexual in nature. Although they seem "normal" desires to homosexuals, they are sinful in nature.

For someone to condone and to mollify the presence of homosexual attraction and orientation:

- fails to identify it as the expression of one's sinful nature;
- tolerates the ongoing presence and expression of one's sinful nature;
- does not seek victory over one's sinful nature by the power of the Holy Spirit; and
- yields to it.

The Epistles use several words to describe the inherent sinful nature within humans:

- the flesh (Romans 7.5);
- the old man (Romans 6.6);
- the carnal man (Romans 7.14);
- the natural man (1 Corinthians 2.14; and
- the heart of mankind (Ephesians 4.18).

At no time, does the Holy Spirit urge the New Testament writers to ignore the presence and effects of humanity's original sinful nature.

Instead, the Spirit inspired writers urge its removal. For example:

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with (Christ), that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." (15)

"And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." (16)

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." (17)

In fact, Scripture teaches that sinners need new natures that will replace their inherited sinful natures and enable them to live in victory over their sinful natures.

Summary

In summary, the message of the Bible and of Christ, in His preincarnation, His earthly ministry, and of His post earthly ministry through the New Testament Epistles, declares a clear, unmistakable message:

- the wickedness of homosexuality in all its forms;
- the expression of a person's sinful nature in same sex attraction and orientation;
- the evil of homosexual desires whether consummated or not; and
- the necessity a new nature to replace the old, sinful nature inherited at birth from Adam and Eve.

Purpose of God

Why did the triune God make these commands in the Bible?

Homosexuality, its lusts, and its "orientation" became a significant practice during Biblical times and the years which followed Christ's earthly ministry. God's chosen people in the Old Testament, and Christ's disciples and followers in the New Testament faced cultures that practiced rampant homosexuality.

The people of God needed direction from the Holy Spirit on these issues. The triune God wanted them to know:

- the wicked abomination of homosexuality, including the physical same sex act(s) and the evil of same sex desires;
- the evil and cause of same sex orientation;
- the inherent cause of sins which result from a person's inherent sinful nature; and
- the plan and purpose of God for holiness in life through victory over one's sinful nature.

Correlation to our present era

How do these Biblical commands correlate to you and me?

We, too, face an ever-increasing emphasis on homosexuality in our cultures as a normal, alternative life style. Societies excuse it, enable it, even demand its acceptance and approval.

Increasing pressure from the homosexual community causes new laws to protect them. Some laws require approval of their agenda. Our children encounter educational programs that indoctrinate them on the merits of homosexuality, even forcing them to approve of it.

Therefore...

Summary: The Holy Spirit can destroy the sinful nature's attractions.

Christ followers

Therefore, as Christ followers, we must recognize and believe what the Bible teaches on this evil practice. Contrary to the voices of the "Christian homosexuals" we need to stand for the truth of the Bible.

The Bible does not separate "same sex attraction" or "same sex orientation" from the evil of homosexual acts, thereby creating "Christian homosexuality". No exemption exists for those who experience opposite sex desires or orientation.

Further, we must examine the Scriptures for Biblical truth and rethink the almost automatic acceptance of people and organizations with positions of leadership in the Christian Assembly. We must reject the deceits and errors of those who promote this false narrative.

They speak falsely and support each other in their heresies, just like those false prophets whom Jeremiah denounced. (18) They must confess and repent of their sins of promoting and enabling an unBiblical agenda.

Christ calls us unto holiness, in practice and in thought. We cannot accept sinful lusts as "normal" and acceptable, whether same sex desires, opposite sex lusts, or other fleshly lusts, i.e., "That's just the way I was made. I cannot help it."

To condone and even mollify our inherent sinful natures contradicts God's plans for us to count it crucified with Christ. We have received a new nature, Christ's life by the Holy Spirit. How can that Spotless Life coexist with our sinful natures? It can't.

Christ calls His followers to submit to the authority of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We must subdue our sinful natures, reject sinful lusts, and walk in victory over them by the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. (19)

If caught in this false narrative, I urge you to examine the Scriptures. See the unmistakable commands against homosexuality in act and desire. Confess your sin and turn in repentance from this esteemed fallacy. Rely upon the Holy Spirit to enable you to walk in victory.

As Christ followers, we face a daunting task. God calls us to stand as lights in the darkness and to reprove sin. Yet, Christ has promised His presence with us until the end and will enable us to fulfill His commands.

Unbelievers

The Holy Spirit can also use these thoughts to enlighten you to your need to turn from your sinful, rebellious, self-reliance and to trust Christ. Our sinful natures and desires separate us from God.

In His life, death, and resurrection, Christ paid the penalty of peace with God for sinners like you and me. Everyone who trusts upon the person and provision of Christ obtains eternal life.

As a young boy, I trusted Christ and His provision for me. I have experienced Christ's transforming power by the Holy Spirit in my life and attest to its reality.

I ask the Holy Spirit to come to you today:

- to give you the new birth, regenerating you, and giving you new life;
- to give you the faith to turn from your sinful nature's sin, self-reliance, and rebellion against God;
- to enable you to trust Christ's provision in His life, death, and resurrection as fulfilled for you which will reconcile you to God; and
- to come to you today and to indwell you as Christ promised so that He will begin to form Christ's life in you.

References

- 1. Hebrews 12.22-23: ecclesia: The original word used in the New Testament for the body of believers describes them as an assembly of called out ones. In this article, I will use the word Assembly to identify believers at large and assembly and/or assemblies to identify local congregations of believers.
- 2. the primary online website for the new homosexuality: www.livingout.org

- 3. This is not a complete list but includes more prominent ones. Look for a description of same sex attraction as sinful and not something to encourage.
- 4. 2 Peter 1.3-5
- 5. John 8.58
- 6. Exodus 20.17
- 7. Logos Bible Software: New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exposition, H2773.
- 8. Logos Bible Software: Louw Nida, #76.23
- 9. Sexual sins included in the definition of "fornication": homosexuality; lesbianism; prostitution; fornication; bestiality; pedophilia; and incest.
- 10. John 16.12-16 (ESV)
- 11. "fornication": Matthew 19.19; Mark 7.21; Acts 15.20, 29; Acts 21.25; 1 Corinthians 5.1; 1 Corinthians 6.13-20; 2 Corinthians 12.21; Galatians 5.19; and Ephesians 5.3.
- 12. For example: Mark 7.20-23: "evil thoughts"; Romans 1.24-26: "impure lusts...dishonorable passions"; Romans 1.28: "debased mind"; Romans 7.5: "sinful passions"; Ephesians 4.22: "deceitful desires"; Colossians 3.5: "evil desire"; and 1 Thessalonians 4.5: "lust of concupiscence".
- 13. Galatians 5.19-21; Ephesians 2.3.
- 14. Romans 1.26-27; Genesis 2.24.
- 15. Romans 6.6.
- 16. Galatians 5.24 (ESV).
- 17.2 Corinthians 5.17.
- 18. Jeremiah 5.30-31
- 19. Galatians 5.19-24.

You can find more information on this important subject in this ebook:

Homosexuality, Christians, and the Church

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