

*Same Sex Attraction & Gospel Opportunities:
Toward a Christ-Centered Sexuality*

Romans 1:18–32

July 20, 2014

Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

- A. Children's Sermon: Why did God Make You?
- B. Review:
 - 1. The "Good" Use of Our Bodies (What & Why)
 - 2. Same Sex Attraction & Homosexuality

Last Week's Key Idea

As sinners, we have much in common with the homosexual community and as Christians we have a great & beautiful message to give them.

- 3. Common Ground: **We** are Sinners...
 - a. Rebels (What is right in **our** eyes)

Romans 1:32

³² Though they know God's righteous decree that *those who practice such things **deserve to die**, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*

- b. Idolaters (**Our** desires rule us)

1 Peter 2:11

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to ***abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.***

- 2. The Good News is for Sinners

- C. A Christ-Centered Sexuality

Today's Key Idea

What does it even mean to have a Christ-centered sexuality and how does God get us there?

II. SSA involves Desires for the Good & the Sinful

- A. Intimacy, Companionship, Same Sex Friendship (e.g. Johnathan & David), A Community that Accepts You... are All Good
- B. Not Good... Sinful...
 - a. Lawful desire that becomes idolatry
 - b. Desiring something God forbids

...as we reject God, we find ourselves craving what we are not naturally designed to do. ²

Romans 1:24–27

²⁴ **Therefore God gave them up** in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶ **For this reason God gave them up** to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are *contrary to nature*; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

The words for “natural” and “against nature” do not describe our subjective experience of what feels natural to us, but instead refer to the fixed way of things in creation. **The nature that Paul says homosexual behavior contradicts is God’s purpose for us**, revealed in creation and reiterated throughout Scripture. ¹ (Bold Mine)

C. Taking up Our Cross (Count the Cost)

How do you repent for a sin that doesn’t feel like a sin? How could the thing that I had studied and become be sinful? How could I be tenured in a field that is sin? How could I and everyone that I knew and loved be in sin? ²

¹ **Allberry, Sam** (2013-10-08). Is God anti-gay? (Questions Christians Ask) (Kindle Locations 280-285). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

² **Butterfield, Rosaria** (2012-09-06). The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert (Kindle Locations 489-491). Crown & Covenant Publications. Kindle Edition.

III. God's Rescue in Christ

- A. Jesus ***Our Substitute*** Kept Himself Pure [Jer. 17:5–8]
- B. The Gospel Renews Our Identity,
Allegiance & Affections

1 Corinthians 6:9b–11

...Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ ***And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified*** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

2 Corinthians 5:14–15

¹⁴ For the ***love of Christ controls us***, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;¹⁵ and he died for all, ***that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him*** who for their sake died and was raised.

The beloved of God in Christ **becomes our identity** (bold mine) and the controlling factor in our lives. In Jesus we find the “treasure in the field,” the “pearl of great value,” and everything formally prized is counted “as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord” (Matthew 13:44-46; Philippians 3:8). ...

The hope of the gospel is that God does what is impossible for us: he gives us a new heart that understands our need for his grace and embraces Christ by faith. The Holy Spirit at work in this new heart enables us to obey. And... this obedience flows from *affection* for God in response to his love for us. ...

In other words, when we know him and experience the blessing of that relationship, we obey. **Not because it is easy but because it is worth it.** (bold mine) ...

Ultimately, we are called to be Christo-sexual. We submit our desires and affections to Jesus learning how to manage our bodies “in holiness.”³

³ **White, David.** *Can You Change if You're Gay?* New Growth Press, (p. 9, 10, 11 & 12).

IV. Becoming “Christo-Sexual” or Holy

A. How!?

1. Thank God for our Savior!
2. Confess Your Sin (1 Jn. 1:9)
3. Prayerfully Put On Submission, Faith & Delight!

B. What does “Christo-Sexuality” Look Like?

1. Heterosexual: “Good” Desires vs. Lusts

The goal of physical intimacy is to selflessly serve and bring pleasure to the other (1 Corinthians 7:1-5).⁴

- a. Obedient: God’s rules (marriage, adultery, pornography, solo-sex)
- b. Singles (desires & lusts)
2. Same Sex Attraction & Homosexuality
 - a. ***Those struggling with SSA***: Battling out-of-bounds desires (aka. Lusts)
 - 1) God will supply what you need

It isn’t sufficient for people with SSA to begin experiencing heterosexual desire, get married, and perform heterosexually. (And perhaps begin struggling with heterosexual lust!) Making heterosexuality the goal for same sex attraction falls so far short of God’s plan. There needs to be a *greater* redemption of our sexuality. **Christ-centered sexuality is about submitting our sexual desires, longings and affections to him, and learning by his power to live “in holiness” within his good and perfect design.**⁴ (bold mine)

- 2) God can and sometimes will provide what you wish for
- 3) You are not alone
- b. ***To those who identify themselves as a homosexual***: Our Sexuality is a great gift but the one true God has something much better for you!

⁴ Ibid. (p. 13)