



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is Heterosexuality the Goal?

I have often been asked, “How can you be gay and then not gay?” or “So are you now straight?”

Some believe that my message is to turn people from gay to straight, because the assumption is “If God doesn’t condone homosexual sex, then the goal *must* be heterosexuality.” But I don’t believe that the goal should be heterosexuality.

A misconception within the Church is that heterosexuality is normal, because “Isn’t this what God has commanded?” But the term heterosexuality is too broad encompassing adultery, fornication and lust. And Scripture condemns heterosexual sin more times than it does homosexual sex.

The goal for all Christians should not be homosexuality or even heterosexuality, but instead *holy sexuality*.

Holy sexuality means one of two scenarios. The first scenario is marriage. If a man is married, he must devote himself to complete faithfulness to his wife—that all his affections and desires should be for his wife alone. And if a woman is married, she must devote herself to complete faithfulness to her husband—that all her affections and desires should be for her husband alone.

The second scenario is singleness. Single people must devote themselves to complete faithfulness to the Lord through celibacy. This is clearly taught throughout Scripture, and abstinence is not something unfair or unreasonable for God to ask of his people. Singleness is not a curse. Singleness is not a burden.

However, holy sexuality doesn’t mean that I no longer have any sexual feelings or attractions. Nor is it the obliteration of my sexuality either. God created us as sexual beings with the natural desire for intimacy. Everyone is created to desire intimate, God-honoring, nonsexual relationships with the same gender. But because of the effects of original sin, this normal feeling has been distorted. I believe homosexuality (and any other sin such as jealousy, pride, and gluttony) stems from a legitimate need fulfilled in an illegitimate way.

Therefore, I don’t say that I’m straight, nor do I say that I’m gay. That may seem improbable and some may think, “You’ve got to be something!” But I believe that there must be a paradigm shift. The need we have to put everybody into categories by gender, race, career, relationship status, income and now, sexual orientation only segregates us.

As I read the Bible, I find Jesus calling us to unity. Unity in what? Plain and simple. In Christ. My identity is not gay or straight, homosexual or heterosexual. But my identity as a child of the

living God, must be in Jesus Christ alone.

I am not a gay Christian or a straight Christian. I am not a Chinese Christian or a male Christian. I am simply a Christian. This is my main identity.

2. Is Homosexuality a Choice?

I often hear people saying, “He (or she) chose a homosexual lifestyle.” This statement can be quite offensive to some. From my experience, homosexuality is *not* a choice.

When I first noticed the attractions I had at the early age of nine, I certainly did not choose them. They were just there. In all my years, I have never met anybody that ever *chose* to have homosexual feelings.

Sure, we may choose how we respond to those feelings, but please understand how saying that homosexuality is a choice can be very hurtful. Sexuality is complex and to give the impression that someone actually chose to have homosexual feelings can make us seem insensitive.

However, saying that homosexuality is not a choice, doesn't mean that people are born gay. Many believe that it must be one or the other. This is faulty logic. See “Are People Born Gay?”

3. Can Gays Change?

I do believe that gays can change, but my definition of change is quite different than most.

First, no one comes to Christ and isn't changed. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17). However, this change for most people will not be from gay to straight. Sure it is possible—God can do anything. But in most cases, it is not as probable.

So what would change look like?

For many, they believe that change must be no longer having gay thoughts and only having straight thoughts.

But is this consistent with other things? Take pride. If there was someone you knew who had been so pompous and proud, but all of a sudden he changed his ways. He actually became quite pleasant and often a humble man. This lasted for several years. And yet talking to him, he'd say that he still has feelings of pride that he deals with sometimes on a daily basis, sometimes on a weekly basis or less.

Would we say that he hasn't changed? I hope not! He has changed.

I have known a few people who have changed their orientation. Not many, but some. But I don't believe that this should be the emphasis nor the standard for change.

I believe that change is not the absence of struggles, but change is the freedom to choose holiness in the midst of our struggles. Because the ultimate issue is not our feelings or our struggles. The ultimate issue is that we yearn after God in total surrender and complete obedience.

4. Are People Born Gay?

If you did a random survey on the street asking whether people are born gay, the majority would state that this was a proven fact. However, doing a little bit of research would prove otherwise.

[The American Psychological Association](#) states that “There is no consensus among scientists about the exact reasons that an individual develops a heterosexual, bisexual, gay, or lesbian orientation. Although much research has examined the possible genetic, hormonal, developmental, social, and cultural influences on sexual orientation, no findings have emerged that permit scientists to conclude that sexual orientation is determined by any particular factor or factors. Many think that nature and nurture both play complex roles.” Nature includes genetic, hormonal and biological influences which mostly occur before birth. Nurture includes psychological, sociological, cultural and developmental influences which mostly occur after birth.

[The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) states that “Sexual orientation probably is not determined by any one factor but by a combination of genetic, hormonal, and environmental influences.” Some scientists may include pre-natal hormonal influences under environmental influences. But most also include sociological and cultural influences under environmental influences—which happen after birth.

[The Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists](#) state on their website, “No one knows what causes heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality.” They also write that “Currently there is a renewed interest in searching for biological etiologies for homosexuality. However, to date there are no replicated scientific studies supporting any specific biological etiology for homosexuality.”

Dr. Alan Sanders of Northwestern's Healthcare Research Institute in Evanston, Illinois who is currently heading up a federally funded study researching 1,000 pairs of gay brothers, was quoted in an [MSNBC article](#). “It is more likely there are several genes that interact with non-genetic factors, including psychological and social influences, to determine sexual orientation.” In other words, there are possibly both genetic (before birth) and non-genetic factors (after birth, including psychological and social influences) that contribute to a person's sexual orientation.

Dr. Gene Robinson is the director of the Neuroscience Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was quoted in [The New York Times](#). “As much as people like to divide

themselves into nature or nurture camps, what genes actually do in the brain reflects the interaction between hereditary and environmental information.” In other words, both nature and nurture.

By saying homosexuality has a biological factor is not the same as saying people are born gay. From all these quotes, we see that there are probably many factors or aspects or correlates which play into the complexity of sexuality—both biological and environmental, nature and nurture, before birth and after birth.

Now let’s take a look at the heart of the issue: some claim that people are born gay in order to justify moral permissiveness. “If I was born this way, it can’t be wrong.” However, there are many inherent impulses I’ve had as long as I can remember, that I never choose, nor did I ever ask for (selfishness, jealousy, pride, etc.). But this doesn’t justify their moral permissiveness.

In contrast, many conservatives refuse to consider that homosexuality might have a biological aspect because this would make it seem that “God made people gay.” But this is a misunderstanding of the human and sinful nature which all humans have inherited from Adam—the doctrine of original sin.

I believe that people can be born with a propensity or a predisposition for homosexuality, or any other sin for that matter. Sin may have biological influences.

This is from [*The New York Times*](#). “Genetic factors appear to play a significant role in alcoholism and may account for about half of the total risk for alcoholism. The role that genetics plays in alcoholism is complex, however, and it is likely that many different genes are involved. Research suggests that alcohol dependence, and other substance addictions, may be associated with genetic variations in 51 different chromosomal regions.” But it is clear that to “develop alcoholism, other factors usually come into play, including biology, genetics, culture, and psychology.” Does this sound familiar?

Having a biological aspect to sin certainly doesn’t make it permissible nor does it make it determinative. We are all born with a sinful, human nature. “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me” (Psalm 51:5).

From all these quotes, there is no evidence that people are born gay.

Read “What Does Science Say?” to learn more about the studies done on possibly biological factors of homosexuality.

5. What Does Science Say?

What studies have been done on possible biological factors of homosexuality?

Some studies were conducted on identical twins.

In 1991, John Michael Bailey and Richard Pillard¹ conducted a study of twin brothers and found that 52 percent of identical twins in the study were both gay (concordant) and 22 percent of fraternal twins in the study were both gay. In 2000, Bailey, along with Michael Dunne and Nicholas Martin² attempted to repeat the test in Australia and found that only 30 percent of identical twins studied were both gay.

Although these studies may point to the possibility that there may be a genetic component to sexuality, it also clearly shows that genetics is not the only factor which plays into sexuality. If sexuality was purely a genetic trait, then 100 percent of identical twins would both be gay (this is called concordance). But such was not the case. An important critique to note is that Bailey's studies advertised in mostly gay magazines—a slightly biased applicant pool!

Here are two more recent studies. Peter Bearman and Brückner in 2002³ showed that only 6.7 percent of identical twins were both gay, 7.2 percent of fraternal twins were both gay, and 5.5 percent of full siblings were both gay.

Långström, et al.,⁴ conducted the largest twin study of same-sex sexual behavior which was published in 2008. The press only reported on their estimate that familial effects have a minor role. But the press did not report that the confidence intervals (margin of error) was embarrassingly wide for their genetic and environment estimates. Another thing which the press did not report was that only 10% of male identical twin pairs and 12% of female identical twin pairs were concordant with having a same-sex partner sometime in their lifetime.

There were some studies which involved the brain.

Simon LeVay⁵ performed a study released in 1991 on the hypothalamus. He examined forty-one cadavers, which he classified as follows: nineteen gay men who had died of AIDS, sixteen presumed heterosexual men (six of whom had died of AIDS), and six presumed heterosexual women (one of whom had died of AIDS). He found a portion of the hypothalamus, the INAH3 group, to be twice as big in the heterosexual male group as in the gay male group. But there were

¹ Bailey JM, Pillard RC (1995). Genetics of Human Sexual Orientation. *Annual Review of Sex Research*, 6, 126-150.

² Bailey JM, Dunne MP, Martin NG (2000). Genetic and Environmental Influences on Sexual Orientation and Its Correlates in an Australian Twin Sample. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 78, 524–536.

³ Bearman P, Brückner H (2002). Opposite-Sex Twins and Adolescent Same-Sex Attraction. *American Journal of Sociology*, 107, 1179-1205.

⁴ Långström N, Rahman Q, Carlström E, Lichtenstein P (2008). Genetic and Environmental Effects on Same-sex Sexual Behaviour: A Population Study of Twins in Sweden. *Archives of Sexual Behaviour*, 7 June 2008, doi 10.1007/s10508-008-9386-1.

⁵ LeVay S (1991). A Difference in Hypothalamic Structure Between Homosexual and Heterosexual Men. *Science*, 253, 1034-1037.

some conflicting results as well.

LeVay himself concluded, “It’s important to stress what I didn’t find. I did not prove that homosexuality is genetic, or find a genetic cause for being gay. I didn’t show that gay men are born that way, the most common mistake people make in interpreting my work. Nor did I locate a gay center in the brain . . . Since I look at adult brains, we don’t know if the differences I found were there at birth or if they appeared later.”

Byne, Tobet, Mattiace, et al. (2001)⁶ tried to replicate this study. But they could not.

Some more notable studies looked at chromosomes.

Dean Hamer, in 1993,⁷ conducted a chromosomal study on gay brothers and found a shared marker on the X chromosome at Xq28. Unfortunately, this was dubbed by pop-culture as the “gay gene.” Hamer himself (who was gay) said, “. . . environmental factors play a role. There is not a single master gene that makes people gay. . . I don’t think we will ever be able to predict who will be gay.”

In addition, other scientists tried to replicate the results but were not able to find this common shared marker among gay brothers (Bailey et al. in 1999⁸ and McKnight and Malcolm in 2000⁹). But most damaging for Hamer was the fact that he did not have a control group of non-gay subjects. If the control group had the same shared marker on the X chromosome at Xq28 as the gay brothers, then his finding would be completely insignificant.

Unfortunately, the media and pop culture have incorrectly concluded—in spite of all the resounding evidence—that homosexuality is innate and purely biological. As you can see from all the evidence, this is not true.

6. Are Gays Doomed?

I was asked, “If God made me gay, what is my purpose for existing if, according to the Bible, I am doomed? I don’t think God would contradict himself by making someone an ‘abomination’ and then condemning their existence.” Here is my answer.

⁶ Byne W, Tobet S, Mattiace LA, Lasco MS, Kemether E, Edgar MA, Morgello S, Buchsbaum MS, Jones LB (2001). The Interstitial Nuclei of the Human Anterior Hypothalamus: An Investigation of Variation with Sex, Sexual Orientation and HIV status. *Hormones and Behavior*, 40, 86-92.

⁷ Hamer DH, Hu S, Magnuson VL, Hu N. and Pattatucci AML. A Linkage Between DNA Markers on the X Chromosome and Male Sexual Orientation. *Science*, 261, 320-326.

⁸ Bailey JM, Pillard RC, Dawood K, et al. (1999). A family History Study of Male Sexual Orientation Using Three Independent Samples. *Behavior Genetics*, 29 (2), 79–86.

⁹ McKnight J, Malcolm J (2000). Is Male Homosexuality Maternally Linked? *Psychology, Evolution & Gender*, 2, 229–239.

God created each of us to have unique feelings and desires, but not every feeling we have is necessarily good or from God. For example, many of us experience pangs of jealousy, envy, pride, and so on. This is a result of the Fall, which we read about in Genesis 3 (the doctrine of original sin). The truth is that we are all born with proclivities for certain sins (cf. Ps. 51:5).

Therefore, we should not be surprised when we have feelings we can't explain, never asked for, or didn't choose. But the simple existence of these feelings doesn't mean that God made us this way. Our desires do not equal our identity. I believe that sexuality is not so much *who we are* but *what we experience*.

The Bible does clearly speak against the act of homosexual sex. Leviticus 18:22 states, "You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination" (NASB). However, notice that it doesn't state that "they" are an abomination. The emphasis is upon "it" or the *act* as being an abomination. The Bible never states that *they* are detestable.

With that in mind, we can now ask, "Is the fate of LGBT people specifically doomed?" Hell, no! (Pardon my emphasis.) At least, not any more than anyone else. The Bible says that apart from Christ we are *all* doomed (Rom. 3:23). But because of the atoning sacrifice of the perfect Lamb of God, *everyone* can have hell cancelled and heaven guaranteed—so long as they believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-10).

So in layman terms, it is not one's orientation (feelings or desires) that is condemned but rather we are held accountable for how we act upon our feelings. What our heavenly Father desires most is for us to surrender all that we are (our hopes, plans, time, treasure, talents, even our sexuality) and take on our new identity in Christ. It may seem like self-deprivation, but in actuality you will discover your true self and who you were created to be.

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23).

7. Are Anti-Gay Bullying and Homophobia Wrong?

Yes.

I don't know how else to put it but anti-gay bullying (or any bullying for that matter) and homophobia are wrong. Sure some have wrongfully included those who hold to a biblical perspective of sexuality as being homophobic or hateful. But if bullying and homophobia is defined simply as the mistreatment or harming of those who are gay, then it is simply wrong.

As a child, I was mercilessly teased. And it hurt to the core. Sure, we're told as children, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." But, this is one of the worst lies we can tell our children.

Those words said in spite at me, cut me like a knife. I was called fag, sissy, pansy and fairy—on top of all the racial, nerdy and short jokes. I would not repeat my childhood years for anything.

But, you know what? I did survive. And it got better.

Unfortunately, Christians are seen as doing little to stop bullying and homophobia. Often, we may do nothing when our youth make jabs or say “That’s so gay!” This needs to stop.

On the other hand, the media has wrongfully portrayed all Christians to be like that certain hate group which masquerades around as a “church” spitefully holding signs dripping with malice at gay pride parades and funerals. Know that what they are doing is totally despicable and shaming the name of Christ.

So let’s stand together as decent human beings against the evils of bullying and homophobia.

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