

EXTREME HOME MAKEOVER:  
A CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSE TO HOMOSEXUALITY

## Introduction

Why are we doing this?

We will look at the topic of homosexuality through three different "lenses."

## Three Lenses

### 1) *The Biblical Lens*

We start here because:

- 1) Scripture dictates the life of the church.
- 2) There are moral commands in the Bible we need to take seriously.

The OT overwhelmingly considers homosexual practice as an abomination to God.

- The Narrative passages of Genesis 19:1-8 & Judges 19:22-25
- Holiness codes of Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13

The NT agrees with the OT.

- Romans 1:24-27 (Context, argument of 1:18-32, Paul's use of "natural")
- 1 Corinthians 6:9 (Context, Gk. *malakoi* and *arsenokoitai*, proper application of this passage)

"Isn't love all that really matters?"

### 2) *The Ethical Lens – specifically in the church*

Starting place of discussion is sexual identity.

- Some statistics
- Same-sex attraction vs. homosexual orientation vs. gay identity

Reasons why people become gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, etc.

- Biology?
- Childhood experiences?
- Environmental factors?
- Adult experiences?

Can't someone just be "cured?"

- Possible meanings for "cured"
- Likelihood of a continual struggle

- Correcting our thinking in the Christian community

The church's responsibility

- The message gay Christians hear from the church
- The church can be a place of healing, honesty, and vibrant community

Can someone be a practicing homosexual and a Christian at the same time?

- A better way to ask that question...
- There would seem to be bigger issues at play

3) *The Cultural Lens – Same-sex marriage*

Why is this a topic we care about?

Five reasons to support traditional marriage:

- 1) Marriage *is not* a creation of the state. It is merely a recognition of what already exists.
- 2) Same-sex marriage possibly harms children
- 3) Same-sex marriage restricts religious freedom
- 4) Same-sex marriage affirms a behavior that is unhealthy, immoral, and unnatural
- 5) Same-sex marriage eliminates any denial for other expressions of "marriage."

Objections to our stance and how to respond:

- 1) Denying same-sex marriage is a denial of civil rights.  
*Response:* No, it's not. All people have the same rights to marry. The difference is that homosexuals have an inequality of preference.
- 2) The state should remain neutral on this.  
*Response:* No, the state has a responsibility to protect marriage.
- 3) Forbidding same-sex marriage is like forbidding inter-racial marriage.  
*Response:* No, it's not. Skin color is morally trivial. Definition of marriage is not.
- 4) The government should not legislate morality.  
*Response:* Yes, they not only should but they must! This is a main function of the state.

**Conclusion**