

**Thinking,
and talking,
about issues of
sexuality and
gender with our
friends.**

Session 03:

**Thinking and
Talking about
Homosexuality**

KEY THOUGHT:

Any assertion people make must be backed up by a trustworthy (and relevant) source of information.

A little understood fact about Christians:

Christians simply aim to repeat the message of Jesus, as given to us through the writings of the New testament. For us, Jesus earned the right to tell us what the world really is, and how to live. Any authority lesser than his authority does not compete with his claim. If there's a conflict, he wins. We have no choice.

So, Followers of Jesus just ask, a simple questions: What does the bible (God) say about this issue? Then we just seek to understand, live out, and report what it says. Since what God says is *true*, and God is loving, this is the most loving thing we can do—and what God says is what will lead to the best for men and women. The fruit of our culture's ways, on the other hand, is self evident—**how are we doing** out there, with all these new ideas?

Issues of Sexuality

Once we have a sense of what Gender is, we have a context for talking about what sex is.

The thinking might go like this:

Knowing what a human is leads to...

Knowing what our bodies are for, which leads to...

Knowing what Gender is, which leads to...

Knowing what a Man (or a Woman) is, which leads to...

*Knowing how man and woman are to relate to each other,
which leads to...*

*Knowing what we're doing when we marry and have sex,
which leads to...*

*Understanding what things would be good and right in terms of
Sexual activity, and what things would not, which leads to...*

*Understanding the kinds of sexual activity that are prohibited in
scripture.*

Issues of Sexuality

The Main Texts for thinking about the issue:

- Genesis 1-3: Creation, Adam, and Eve
- Genesis 19: The City of Sodom
- Leviticus 18-22: The Holiness Code in the Law

Issues of Sexuality

The Main Texts for thinking about the issue:

- The Gospels: Jesus' teachings
(For instance Mark 7:21-23)
- Paul's writings: Romans 1 and
1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Several biblical texts show us
that homosexual practice is sin.

...but... *why* would it be a sin?

Issues of Sexuality

This morning's question: *Why* would homosexual practice be wrong?

Answer:

Because we have a purpose...
Knowing God,
and ruling as a social community.

Genesis 1:26-28

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."

...So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them**. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Issues of Sexuality

Why would homosexual practice be wrong?

Because we have a purpose:

Knowing God,
and ruling as a social community.

Purpose requires specialization.

Issues of Sexuality

Everything about us affects our ability to carry out our purpose: mental, emotional, physical.

In order to know God and care for creation in community, we have been made in a highly specialized way—physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Issues of Sexuality

Purpose requires specialization.

Humanity is precious.

Humanity is finely tuned.

Humanity is integrated.

Everything about us affects our
ability to carry out our purpose:
mental, emotional, physical.

Issues of Sexuality

Purpose requires specialization.

Relational issues are at the forefront of our ability to fulfill our purpose, because:

1. we know God most fully in community, and...
2. we require community to carry out the mandate to care for creation.

Issues of Sexuality

Issue of sexuality clearly affect all the areas of our being: mental, emotional, physical. Therefore they are of central importance.

They also affect our relationships in huge ways. Therefore...

Issues of Sexuality

Sexuality is important for the general mission and purpose of humanity.

It affects how we are able to know God.

It affects how we live relationally, in community.

Issues of Sexuality

So...**these things matter** so much **because we matter** so much, **and** because **they uniquely affect us** in a holistic way.

Map of Relations

MAN

MAN

WOMAN

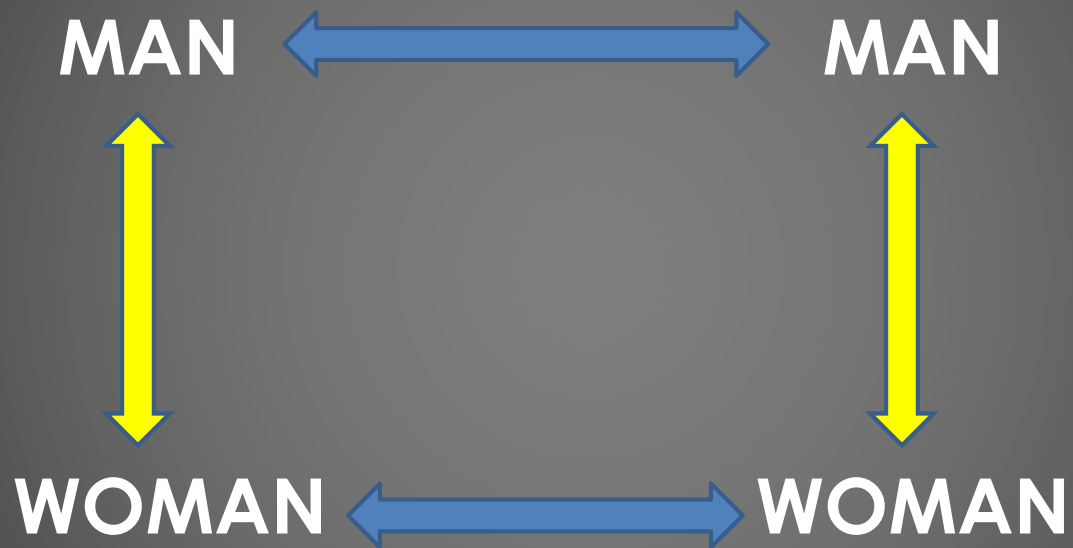
WOMAN

Map of Relations

MAN ↔ MAN

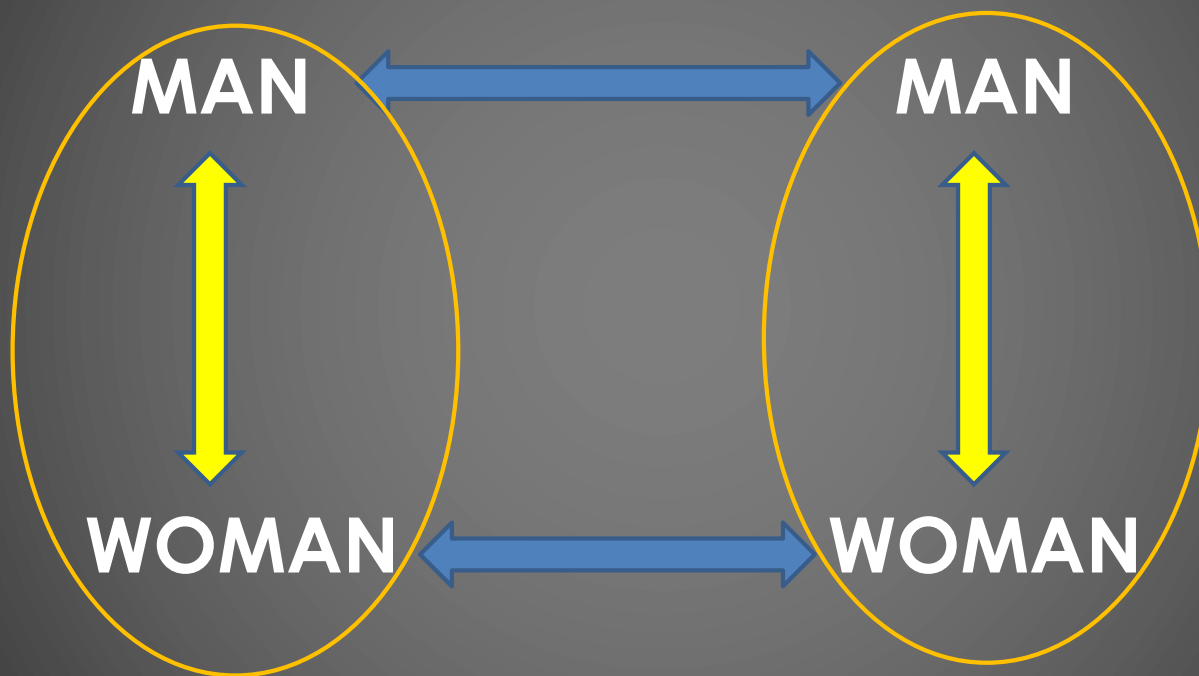
WOMAN ↔ WOMAN

Map of Relations



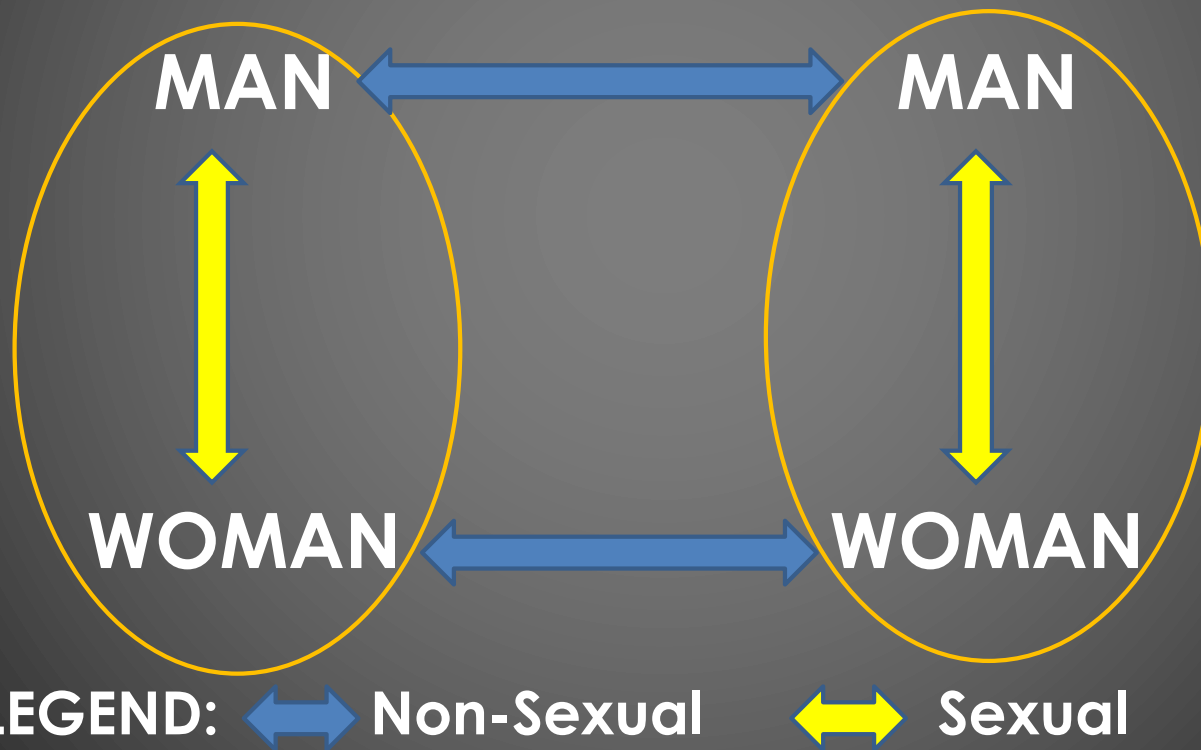
LEGEND: ←→ Non-Sexual ←→ Sexual

Map of Relations



LEGEND:  Non-Sexual  Sexual

The best way for us to fulfill our purpose of living in community to know God and care for the earth.



Issues of Sexuality

So...We must have many relationships which are non-sexual, and may have one which is sexual.

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Men must have strong, loving bonds between each other which are not sexual, **for the sake of fulfilling God's purposes for humanity.**

Issues of Sexuality

So...We must have many relationships which are non-sexual, and may have one which is sexual.

Women must have strong, loving bonds between each other which are not sexual, **for the sake of fulfilling God's purposes for humanity.**

Issues of Sexuality

So...We must have many relationships which are non-sexual, and may have one which is sexual.

Men and women who are not married must have strong, loving bonds between each other which are not sexual, for the sake of fulfilling God's purposes for humanity.

Issues of Sexuality

So...We must have many relationships which are non-sexual, and may have one which is sexual.

Men and women who are married must have strong, loving bonds between each other which are sexual, for the sake of fulfilling God's purposes for humanity.

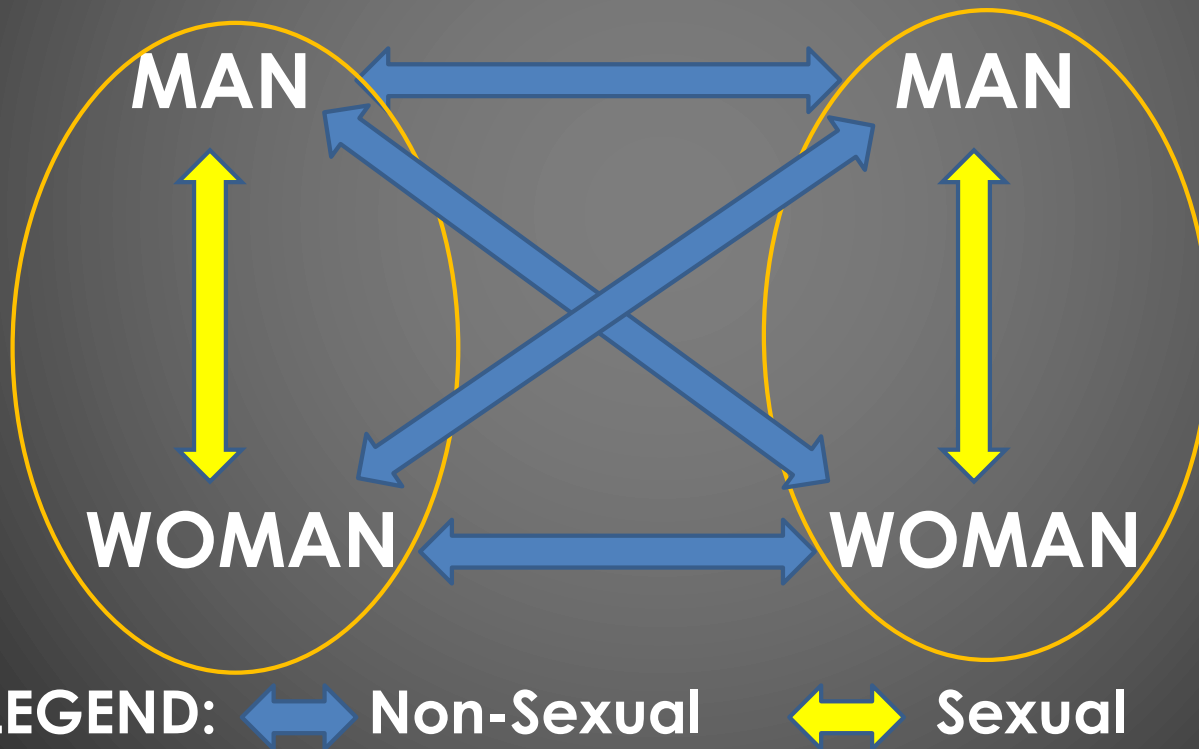
Talking Point: Let's Admit it...

Sex is not just physical. (We know it when we speak to young people.)

All the various layers of sexuality create dynamics that simply ruin many relationships.

(Think: Coach-Player, Boss-Employee, Teacher-Student, Parent-Child, Brother-Sister, etc...)

The best way for us to fulfill our purpose of living in community to know God and care for the earth.



Discussing this with non-Christian friends:

We have a fundamental disagreement about sexuality with our culture. Our culture has decided that most sexuality is healthy as long as it's consensual. We say: "On our own, we don't have the wisdom to know how to use sexuality on our own—we need the maker of sexuality to tell us."

Talking Point:

“I don't think I'm smart enough, by myself, to define something as powerful and essential as sex.

Talking Point:

And suggest something like this:

“In fact, isn’t all this brokenness in our society that results from misuse of *sexuality evidence* that we don’t know what we’re doing? All I know is history has proven that the bible’s directions for sex allow it to be a powerful, life-giving force for good in the world.”

Discussing this with non-Christian friends:

Maybe discuss the Christian concept of *sin*—it cuts someone off from God, and injures any human involved.

Sin is sin partly (though not primarily) because of this damage it does to us in both of these directions.

We can say: “*Sin hurts people. Always. Everyone...*”

Discussing this with non-Christian friends:

All of this means that even though homosexuals say their sexuality is good and right, they are actually harming themselves, whether they know it or not — like a drug addict taking a hit.

So, it *is* loving for us to call our friends away from homosexual sexuality—because we're calling them away from something that is harming them.

The Bible.

What did Jesus say?

He told people they were generally pointed away from God, and called them to turn back to God.

See [Matthew 4:17](#).

See [Matthew 4:17](#).

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*"

"Repent" = "Reorient yourself towards God."

The Bible.

What did Jesus say?

He spoke about these things in a way appropriate to his (Jewish) context: he upheld the OT laws regarding purity, and addressed the issues of his day.

See [Mark 7:17-23](#).

See **Mark 7:17-23**.

He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, **fornications**, murders, ²² thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

The Bible.

What about the rest of the NT?

When the Christian message moved outside of the context of Judea, they began mentioning these things explicitly.

See [Romans 1:24-29](#).

See Romans 1:24-29.

God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, **to dishonor their bodies among themselves,**²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the 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 **vile passions.** For even their **women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.**²⁷ Likewise also the **men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful,** and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting...

The Bible.

**What about the Old Testament?
Do we cherry-pick verses?**

**No, we read the bible
according to its self-described
method of interpretation. Jesus
fulfilled the whole OT law, and
his teachings govern our life
now.**

The Bible.

What about the Old Testament?
Do we cherry-pick verses?

Example: Christians don't offer sacrifices, because *Jesus is our sacrifice*. We know this because the NT teaches us to think this way. **We resolve all issues of interpretation this way.**

The Bible.

What about the OT?

Do we cherry-pick verses?

The bible must be read

intelligently, on its own terms,
taking **the flow of the story** into
account, and then the reasons
why Christians do or don't keep
certain verses makes sense.

Orientation & Repentance

Jesus' message:

Everyone needs to repent.

Everyone can repent.

God defines repentance.

God enables repentance.

Jesus' message:

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'? Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin... Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

John 8:31-36

Jesus' message:

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

John 3:3-8

Jesus' message:

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus' message:

“Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations...”

Luke 24:46-47

The Good News and New life

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you.** But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Three Books

Robert Gagnon (Academic)

*The Bible and Homosexual Practice:
Texts and Hermeneutics*

Kevin DeYoung (Shorter)

*What does the Bible really teach about
Homosexuality?*

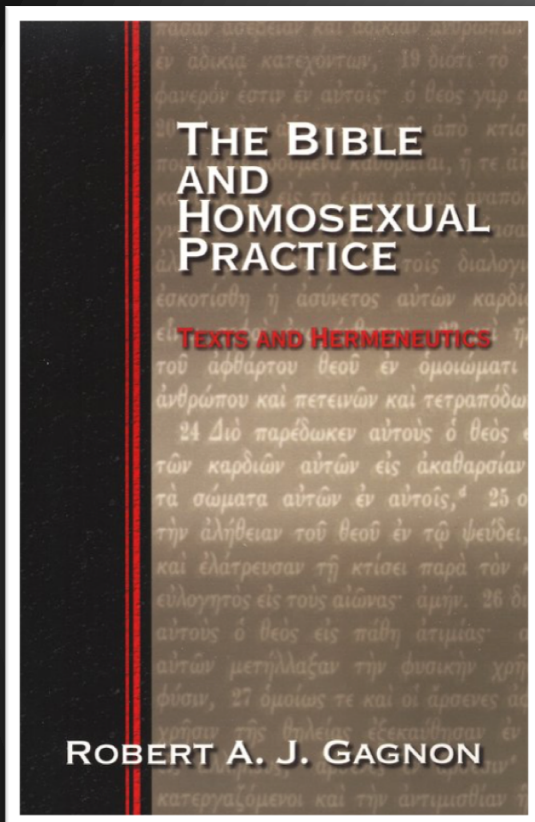
Sam Alberry (Shortest, Give Away)

Is God Anti-Gay?

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Homosexuality**

Q + R



The Bible and Homosexual Practice

By: Robert A.J. Gagnon

Abingdon Press / 2002 / Paperback

1. We love all gay people and transgender people.
2. LGBTQ are all welcome to come here...
3. ...and we say the same thing to everyone who comes: Repent. Turn away from what the Bible calls sin and believe Christ. You can find the love of God and a whole new identity in him. Everyone is welcome to find the new life he offers, and to join us as we all seek to learn more and more how to follow Christ faithfully based on his written word. We want everyone to join us.
4. No one has to join us on this road. If repentance is not something you're interested in, you can choose not to be a part of our community in any meaningful way. This is true of any and all kind of people, regardless of their sexuality.