

TERMS: (as described in Preston Sprinkle's book, "A People to Be Loved")

- Same-sex attraction refers to one's sexual attraction to people of the same sex. There is no one-size-fits-all way to measure this. For some people it's strong, for others it's mild.
- Same-sex orientation simply refers to a strong and more fixed level of same-sex attraction. Same-sex attraction and same-sex orientation are often used interchangeably.
- Same-sex behavior refers to sexual acts, which include lust, sexual activity, and sexual intercourse.*
- gay (lowercase) is a description of one's same-sex orientation (can be male or female; lesbian refers to female only). Such a person may or may not engage in sexual behavior, but they use the term gay as an easy way to describe their experience of same-sex attraction.
- Gay (uppercase) refers to one's identity based on their attraction to the same sex.
- Transgender (gender dysphoria) - this is an umbrella term for anyone who doesn't identify with, or feels some sort of discomfort with their biological sex. It does not necessarily mean they have had a sex change (some have, but many haven't).**
- LGBTQ is an acronym that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning).
- "Traditional," "historical," "non-affirming" are words sometimes used to refer to those holding to a position that God does not sanction same-sex sexual relationships or gay marriage.
- "Revisionist," "progressive," "affirming" are words sometimes used to refer to those holding to a position that God does affirm certain kinds of same-sex sexual relationships or gay marriage.

* All references in the Bible to homosexuality are referring only to same-sex sexual behaviour (not to same-sex attraction or orientation).

** How does a transgender person differ from a gay person? In simplest terms, a gay man identifies as a man and is sexually attracted to other men. But a transgender man may have been born into a male body and identifies as a female. He—or she—may be sexually attracted to other men or may be attracted to other women.

Further Resources:

Books

- Two Views of Homosexuality, The Bible and The Church – edited by Preston Sprinkle
- People to be Loved: Why Homosexuality is Not Just an Issue – Preston Sprinkle
- What Does The Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality – Kevin DeYoung
- Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faith & Homosexuality – Wesley Hill

Right Now Media

- Grace/Truth 1.0 – Preston Sprinkle
- Messy Grace – Caleb Keltenbach

NEXT WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 24TH @ 9 & 11 AM

THE CHURCH AND SAME-SEX ATTRACTION
A PERSONAL STORY (JOURNEY CANADA)

Q&A PRESENTED BY JOURNEY CANADA
FEBRUARY 24TH ~ 6:00 – 8:00 PM



Exploring a Biblical View of Same-Sex Attraction

Jeremy Peters ~ February 17, 2019

ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE IS SAME-SEX ATTRACTION A SIN? _____

James 1:14-15 NLT

"Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."

BIBLICAL PASSAGES:

Genesis 2:18-25 NIV

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

The key question is regarding the phrase "suitable helper." What does this mean, there was no suitable helper?

Preston Sprinkle

kenegdo: conveys both similarity (ke) and dissimilarity (neged). Eve is a human and not an animal, which is why she is ke ("like") Adam. But she's also a female and not a male, which is why she is different than Adam, or neged ("opposite him").

Genesis 19:4-5 NIV

All the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so we can have sex with them."

Leviticus 18:22 NIV

Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.

Leviticus 20:13 NIV

If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

Romans 1:24-27 NIV

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NIV

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Timothy 1:8-11 NIV

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

PASTORAL CONSIDERATIONS:

How do I respond to someone who says...

- 1. Do you think homosexuality is a sin?

- 2. I was born gay. God made me this way, and so how can you say it's wrong?

- 3. If two people love each other, and if they are not hurting anyone, then why is it wrong for them to get married?

- 4. Isn't this like issues surrounding slavery and women that the church has gotten wrong?

- 5. What about the church's hypocrisy (inconsistent on issues like gluttony and divorce)?

- 6. If you loved me, you would accept me as I am. You are being judgmental.

APPRENTICESHIP PRAYER PARTNER QUESTIONS:

- 1. Deep, loving relationships are built upon mutual listening. To listen is to love; you can't truly love unless you first listen. How might this perspective inform the way you engage people with differing viewpoints? What hinders your ability to listen well to others?

- 2. What might it look like for someone to express the fullness of grace and truth in the midst of a conversation regarding same-sex relationships?