

Compassion without Compromise: A Christian Response to Homosexuality

Theology of Sexuality

I. If anyone had **reason** to twist Scripture...

II. **Theology** of Sexuality: *Why* is Homosexuality Wrong?

A. Scripture verses (7):

1. **Gay Gospel?** Joe Dallas
2. Master's thesis
 - a. H12 **never positive**
 - b. **No guidelines** how to practice (heterosexuality)

B. Concordance

1. Proof-text anything out of context!
2. Gospel → *missio Dei*

III. Questions to **answer**:

- A. Who is God?
- B. Who are we in light of who God is?
- C. What are implications for sexual practice?

IV. **Who** is God?

A. God is **Creator** who rules over all of creation

1. **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

B. God is a **relational** being

1. **Genesis 1:26-27** Then God said, "Let **us** make mankind in **our** image, in our likeness²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; **male and female** he created them."
2. God exists as a Divine Community of love
 - a. Creates in relational image & welcomes into Divine Community
 - b. Mission of God
 - i. God = love, and He wants to love on us!
 - ii. Adam & Eve communication
 - a) Fall – where are you?
 - b) **Banished – tree of** life
 - iii. Good news of Gospel
 - a) Not prayer get into heaven
 - b) Invitation to join Divine Community
 - 1) Yielding all of yourself loving benevolent Creator
 - 2) Living in such a way to persuade others to join worthy throne

3. Relational creator on mission to invite us into His loving community

C. God is a **paradoxical mystery**

1. Three persons yet one God
2. **Deut. 6:4** Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
 - a. Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God [**elohim**], the Lord is one [**echad**].
 - b. **Unity-in-diversity**

D. **Who is God?**

1. God is a relational Creator who welcomes us to the join Divine Community of unity in diversity

V. **Who** are we?

A. We are made in God's image

1. **Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make mankind **in our image, in our likeness**
2. Image = **reflection**

B. How do we reflect God?

1. **Genesis 1:28** God **blessed** them and **said to them**, “Be **fruitful** and **increase in number**; **fill** the earth and **subdue** it. **Rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”
 - a. **Pro-creative** like our Creator!
 - b. Rule over earth // Creator over universe
2. **Relational** beings
 - a. **Pro-creation context of relationship** → **out of intimacy comes progeny**
 - b. Welcome children into community (family)
3. **Paradoxical** mystery
 - a. **Genesis 1:26-27** Then God said, “Let **us** make mankind in **our** image, in our likeness²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; **male and female** he created them.”
 - i. Unity = human
 - ii. Diversity = male/female
 - b. **Genesis 2:24** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become **one flesh** [*echad*].
 - i. Unity in diversity!
 - ii. Reflect the paradoxical mystery of Trinity!
 - a) Relational beings
 - b) Capacity to create
 - c) Welcome into community
 - iii. Two become one = **one divine will**
 - a) No hierarchy
 - b) No competition btwn genders – desire for husband/rule over

VI. **Humans** // **Christ & Church**

A. **Pro-creative**

1. **No one** can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again** (John 3:3)
 - a. All of us = product of spiritual pro-creation
 - b. **Matt. 28:19-20** Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and **teaching** them to **obey** everything I have commanded you.
 - i. Spiritual fulfillment → “be fruitful & multiply, fill earth & subdue it”
 - ii. **Make disciples = reproduce spiritual DNA, fill the earth with disciple makers!**

B. **Relational**

1. Spiritual fruit comes from relational intimacy with Jesus
 - a. **1 Cor. 6: 16-17** Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The **two will become one flesh.**”¹⁷ But whoever is united with the Lord is **one with him in spirit.**
 - b. **Ephesians 5:31-32** For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the **two will become one flesh.**”³² This is a profound **mystery**—but I am talking about **Christ and the church.**
 - i. Something deeply intimate, not in sexual sense but relational sense but also...

C. **Paradoxical mystery**

1. “Two become one” (*echad*) – unity arising out of diversity
 - a. Unity = made in God’s image
 - b. Diversity = Christ is God, we are not
2. Reason Jesus never married
 - a. **Everything we do in the natural points toward God’s ultimate mission**
 - b. The Bible = story about marriage!
 - i. Adam & Eve
 - ii. Christ & Church
 - a) OT = God’s love // husband for Bride
 - b) NT = Christ embodies that love
 - c. **God’s ultimate goal = marry us!**

- i. **Hosea 2:19** I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.
 - 3. God wants to have sex with us? No!
 - a. God is Spirit
 - b. Cannot be contained within construct of gender**
 - i. Sexuality & gender reveal God in a way we can understand
 - a) Male
 - 1) Father/Son
 - b) Female
 - 1) Mother who comforts her child (Is. 66:13)
 - 2) Hen gathering her chicks (Mt. 23:27)
 - 3) Born again – implies womb! (John 3:3)
 - 4) Holy Spirit comforter/nurturer
 - 4. Because marriage = God’s ultimate goal...
 - a. Marriage & sexuality reveal God’s heart:
 - i. Who God is
 - ii. Who we are
 - iii. Meaning of life
 - b. Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen
 - i. “**Sexuality** as part of God’s image ... is the human drive towards intimate communion. More than a mere physical itch that needs scratching, it urges us ‘to experience the other, to trust the other, and to be trusted by [that other person], to enter the other’s life by entering the vital embrace of his or her body.’ Of course, the search toward mutual trust and self-disclosure is also present in friendships and family relationships at their best. But with the urge for sexual intercourse there comes the added dimension of passion, ecstasy and throwing-off of restraint. Thus sexual intimacy involves, at one time, the maximum degree of risk (if it goes badly) and the maximum promise of communion (if it goes well).”
 - a) This is God! → **intimate, risk-taking, all-consuming, mutual love**
 - c. Both marriage & singleness image God:
 - i. Marriage
 - a) Exclusive love & fidelity to covenant // Christ & Bride
 - b) Offspring = open up relationship to invite others in // make **disciples**
 - ii. Singles
 - a) All-inclusive relationships // God’s desire to welcome in “**whosoever**”
 - b) Spiritually image Christ & Bride → intimacy begets progeny!

VII. What are implications for sexual practice?

- A. **God did not create sexuality with morality (i.e. rules to follow) in mind**; he created sexuality to **image** the relational mystery of the Trinity, with the ultimate goal that redeemed humans would be vessels of God’s divine presence who invite others to join the Divine Community of love.
- B. Any sexual practice that doesn’t image the relational mystery of the Trinity is forbidden**
 - 1. **Reverse order**
 - 2. **Paradoxical mystery**
 - a. **Only heterosexual union = unity-in-diversity**
 - b. Divorce not an option since Trinity can never be dis-unified!
 - i. “**And just as the oneness** of the divine **Trinity cannot be broken or pulled apart**, so the oneness from the covenant relationship, sealed by the sexual union, is not to be pulled apart.” Hollinger, Dennis P. *The Meaning of Sex: Christian Ethics and the Moral Life* (Kindle Locations 1862-1863).
 - c. **Any sexual act that violates principle of unity-in-diversity = forbidden**
 - i. **Bestiality** forbidden
 - a) Too much diversity
 - b) No suitable helper for Adam
 - c) Cannot pro-creative, fill earth
 - ii. **Homosexuality** forbidden

- a) Same essence (no diversity)
- b) Cannot pro-create, fill earth
- c) This is why homosexuality = abomination!

3. Relational

- a. Adultery/fornication – no covenantal relationship
- b. Rape – God would never use you & discard you
- c. Pornography – no relationship/intimacy
- d. Masturbation – selfish, isolation
- i. Your highest good at My expense

4. Pro-creative

- a. Homosexuality & bestiality
- b. Pedophilia
- c. **Not infertility disorder** (barren women)

VIII. What are implications for sexual orientation & gender identity?

A. Gender = sacred

- 1. Images God
- 2. Enemy destroy

B. Sexuality goes beyond gender stereotypes

- 1. *Fully Alive: A Biblical View of Gender that Frees Men and Women to Live Beyond Stereotypes*

C. Cannot change biological sex

1. Chromosomes // God cannot change

D. Genderbread Person

1. Categories:

- a. Gender identity (mind)
- b. Gender expression (present)
- c. Biological sex
- d. Sexual orientation

2. God's design

- a. Gender identity, biological sex, sexual orientation = alignment
- b. Misalignment = reason
 - i. Gay Christian
 - ii. Trans Christian
 - iii. Lying Christian

- 3. **Ephesians 4:22-24** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being **corrupted** by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made **new in the attitude of your minds**; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, **created to be like God** in true righteousness and holiness.

IX. Why homosexuality is wrong:

- A. God designed our sexuality to image the relational mystery of the Trinity so that everything we do points toward the good news of God's invitation to join the Divine Community, ultimately realized in the marriage between Christ and His Bride, the Church
- B. For more info: www.lindaseiler.com

Q&A:

I. Slavery (10 reasons) – softening of teaching from OT to NT

- 1. Bible **never commands** it; only **regulates an institution** already embedded in culture (OT)
- 2. OT teaching makes slavery **more humane** than surrounding cultures
- 3. **Moses** called of God to free Israelites from slavery
- 4. NT instructions of **how to live as Christians** in **circumstances they could not change**
- 5. **Jesus** spoke of “freedom for prisoners” and “release for oppressed”
- 6. Paul wrote **Philemon to free Onesimus** (Philemon 15-16)

7. **Paul** told slaves who had opportunity to become free to take advantage of it (1 Cor. 7:21)
 8. **Gal. 3:28-29** asserts there is no slave or free in Christ...all are one
 9. Paul reminds **masters that they are subject to a Master** in heaven, who will not regard them more favorably than their slaves (Ephesians 6:8-9).
 10. Reason for apostles' advice that slaves should serve their masters "with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ," is to **maintain a winsome Christian witness**—"so that in every way they will **make the teaching about God our Savior attractive**" (Titus 2:10, also I Timothy 6:1-2).
 → There are no such qualifications or softening of biblical teaching regarding same-sex intimacy
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Identity = gendered image bearer

1. **Christian = little Christ**
 - a. Action (homosexual act) → noun (homosexual)
 - b. Personalizes behavior → **not DO but WHO I AM**
 - c. Gay Christian // lying Christian
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C. Sexuality goes beyond gender stereotypes

1. *Fully Alive: A Biblical View of Gender that Frees Men and Women to Live Beyond Stereotypes*
 - a. **God created us** as image-bearing males and females so that men and women could each reveal, by the way we relate, something of the wonder of **how the persons of the Trinity relate**.
 - i. **God designed men** as "memory makers" to move toward women—not just sexually but relationally—as a reflection God's **initiative** to move toward lost humanity to reconcile them to Himself.
 - ii. **Likewise, God created women** as ones who welcome movement toward them—not just in a sexual way but relationally—as a reflection of God who warmly **welcomes redeemed humans** to join in the Divine Community.
2. Cannot change biological sex
 - a. **Chromosomes // God cannot change**
 - b. Gender responses
 - i. Male = move toward
 - a) Do I have what it takes to do that? (respect/ego)
 - b) **Fail at masculinity → homosexuality**
 - c) **Molested → must be something wrong w/me for him to choose me**
 - ii. Female = welcome into
 - a) Do others find me beautiful and want to come? (security)
 - b) **Violated, won't welcome in**
 - c) **Molested → never welcome a man, become like perpetrator/what you judge**
 - c. Gender expression/stereotypes