

Secrets of an Unlikely Convert – Rosaria Butterfield

Such were Some of Us: Stories of Transformation and Change by David Longacre. [www.Harvestusa.org](http://www.Harvestusa.org)

Out of a Far Country: A Gay Son's Journey to God. A Broken Mother's Search for Hope – By Christopher Yuan

What's the Difference? By John Piper (Manhood and Womanhood; this is a free downloadable PDF book [https://dwynrhh6bluza.cloudfront.net/website\\_uploads/documents/e-books/pdfs/whats-the-difference-1388566261.pdf](https://dwynrhh6bluza.cloudfront.net/website_uploads/documents/e-books/pdfs/whats-the-difference-1388566261.pdf))

# WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY AND SAME SEX MARRIAGES?

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It is our hope that you will find this booklet both biblical and loving. This subject is a sensitive issue currently challenging our culture. Navigating through this topic requires both grace and truth. By no means is the spirit of this work intended to provoke, but rather create dialogue about this very significant topic.

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### **ARTICLES:**

*Making All Things New* by David Powlison.

<http://www.ccef.org/making-all-things-new-restoring-pure-joy-sexually-broken>

*Can you change if you're gay?* By David White at harvestusa.org listed in their article tab.

*The Gay Dilemma and Your Church* by John Freeman at harvestusa.org listed in their article tab.

*You are What and How you read*, by Rosaria Butterfield. You can find this resource at the link below:

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tgc/2014/02/14/you-are-whatand-howyou-read/>

*When your friend says, “I’m Gay”* – navpress.com – click on “magazines” – “discipleship journal” and search “gay” to find this article.

*The Best for Children*, The American College of Pediatricians- BestforChildren.org

### **BOOKS:**

*Love into Light*, by Peter Hubbard

*Is God Anti-Gay?* By Sam Allberry

*Sexual Sanity for Men* – David White

*Sexual Sanity for Women* – Ellen Dykas

*Finally Free* – Heath Lambert

*This Momentary Marriage* – John Piper

*The Meaning of Marriage* – Timothy Keller

## CONCLUSION

- 1.) Homosexual conduct of all kinds is consistently viewed as sin in the Bible.
- 2.) Recent reinterpretations of the Bible do not give a satisfactory explanation of the words or the context of the relevant verses.
- 3.) Sexual intimacy is to be confined to marriage, and marriage is to be only between one man and one woman. This is the pattern established by God in creation
- 4.) The church should always act with love and compassion toward homosexuals and those struggling with same-sex attraction, yet never affirming homosexual conduct as morally right.
- 5.) The gospel of Jesus Christ offers the “good news” of forgiveness of sins and real hope for a transformed life to all sinners including homosexuals.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

### WEBSITES:

settingcaptivesfree.com – see the course titled “Door of Hope”

harvestusa.org

purelifeministries.org

loveintolight.com

restoredhopenetwork.com

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## **Gender identity and same sex unions are increasingly in the news and political debate.**

This is a very emotional topic. Some of us have family members, friends or loved ones who are a part of the gay and lesbian community. Some of you may struggle with your own sexual identity but are afraid to talk about it. Others of you may be or have been involved in a homosexual relationship.

The discussion on gender identity and same sex relationships has become emotionally heated on both sides. Sadly some Christians have wrongly treated homosexual sin as worse than other kinds of sin. Tragically some homosexuals have been bullied and mistreated. Equally unfortunate is that some who support the gay community have been very intolerant and hateful of those who have a different perspective from theirs. We have seen pro football players, sports announcers, TV stars, restaurant owners, wedding photographers, and others face fines, and even lose their jobs for failing to celebrate the new sexual orthodoxy.

Many communities are adopting non-discrimination ordinances for gays, lesbians and transgenders. These are designed to force people to use their energy, property, and artistic talents to accommodate and facilitate a lifestyle that violates their moral and religious values. In the end it forces many law abiding citizens to choose between their consciences and breaking the law.

- A Methodist group in New Jersey was sued for not allowing same sex marriages at property they owned
- A Christian doctor was sued for not performing in-vitro fertilization and implantation for a lesbian couple, even though he referred the clients to

for sex with members of the same gender.

- ◇ Paul sees such people as choosing to follow their desires over God-ordained creation structures.

### **3.) Many say, “Jesus never addressed the subject of homosexuality. He did teach us to love and accept everyone.”**

*Though we have addressed this earlier, by way of review remember that:*

- Just because we have no record of Jesus addressing an issue doesn't mean that He *approved* of it. Jesus didn't address rape, incest, or bestiality either. Does that mean He approved of them?
- Jesus did teach that we are to love everyone. He did not however teach that we are to approve of their sins.
- Jesus does *judge* people.

**Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.<sup>22</sup> "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'<sup>23</sup> "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

**2.) Some object that the phrase “contrary to nature” in Romans 1:26–27 shows that Paul is only talking about people who “naturally” feel desires toward a person of the opposite sex but who then practice homosexuality.**

According to this view, Paul is not saying anything about people who “naturally” feel desires for a person of the same sex, for such desires would not be “contrary to *that person’s* nature.” However, this is reading into the text a restriction that has no basis in the actual words that Paul wrote.

- (a) Paul says, “For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another” (Rom. 1:26–27).
- (b) Paul does not say “contrary to *their* nature,” but “contrary to nature” (Gk. *para physin*).
  - ◇ This is a phrase that is used several times in literature outside the Bible to speak of all kinds of homosexual conduct as something contrary to the natural order of the world.
  - ◇ In other words, Paul is not saying in Romans 1:24–27 that some people switched their innate heterosexual urges for contrived homosexual urges. Rather it is saying that people exchanged or left behind sexual relations with a true sexual complement (someone of the other sex) to gratify their inward urges

another doctor who was willing to perform the procedure.

- Catholic Charities in Massachusetts discontinued their adoption service ministry rather than be forced to adopt children out to homosexual couples
- A Christian photographer in New Mexico was sued for turning down a job to take pictures at a gay wedding. (Based on her Christian convictions)
- A Christian baker in Oregon was sued for turning down a job to bake a wedding cake for a homosexual couple.

Should Non-Discrimination Ordinances be passed to force citizens to violate their consciences in parallel situations?

- Should an atheist entertainer be forced to sing Christian hymns at a church event or be fined?
- Should a Muslim chef be forced to cook pork ribs for a community barbeque or go to jail?
- Should a homosexual t-shirt designer be forced to design and print a t-shirt with a Bible verse that speaks against his lifestyle or face legal prosecution?

*When should the government step in and force a person to violate his/her conscience, convictions, or religious beliefs?*

The gender dilemma faces other difficult questions. In 2012, one of the contestants in the Canadian Miss Universe contest was a man who had a sex change operation, implants and hormone shots to make him look like a woman. Should he/she have been allowed to compete? How about men who may have sex change operations in order to compete against women in athletic events like the

Olympics? Is our sexuality a matter of biology or psychology?

Both the words **hate** and **tolerance** have been redefined by some involved in this debate.

The American College Dictionary defines **hate** as: *to regard with a strong or passionate dislike; to loathe, despise; feelings of intense dislike*

Is it possible to disagree with someone's lifestyle and not hate them?

**Tolerance** is defined by the dictionary as: *the disposition to be patient and fair with those whose opinions or practices differ from one's own.*

Tolerance does not mean that you agree, but that you are just and kind to those with whom you disagree.

Many in the gay community say, "If you love me you will accept my lifestyle. If you oppose my lifestyle you hate me." Is it possible to lovingly warn someone about what you believe to be self-destructive behavior? Is it possible to lovingly tell someone that what they are doing is wrong? God does!! God hates sin, but loves sinners.

**Proverbs 6:16-19** There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup> *Haughty eyes*, a *lying tongue*, And *hands that shed innocent blood*, <sup>18</sup> A *heart that devises wicked plans*, *Feet that run rapidly to evil*, <sup>19</sup> A *false witness who utters lies*, And *one who spreads strife among brothers*.

- ◆ Who among us is not guilty of more than one of these? God hates our sins yet loves us.

*Remember that, "Jesus died not because we were lovely, but to make us lovely!" (Timothy Keller)*

## V. ADDRESSING SUPPOSED "BIBLICAL" OBJECTIONS

- 1.) **Some say that the biblical passages concerning homosexuality only prohibit certain kinds of homosexual conduct, such as homosexual prostitution, pedophilia, or unfaithful homosexual relationships.**

**Answer:** There is no legitimate evidence that the words used in any of the Bible verses or their contexts are referring to anything less than all kinds of homosexual conduct. The same is true of their usage in the ancient world.

- (a) In Romans 1:23–27 Paul clearly echoes Genesis 1:27, indicating that Paul viewed any sexual relationship that did not conform to the creation paradigm of "male and female" to be a violation of God's will, irrespective of whether the relationship is loving.
- (b) Paul's absolute indictment against all forms of homosexuality is underscored by his mention of lesbian intercourse in Romans 1:26.

Also note that in the ancient world lesbian relationships were not typically characterized by the sexual "exploitation" of adolescents, slaves, or prostitutes.

Dostoevsky said it well – “To love a person means to see him as God intended him to be.”

- 1.) **Explain that the profound brokenness and chaos of our human struggle is the very reason Christ came into the world.** Each of us sins and needs to repent and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We each need to respond to God’s invitation to embrace the reign of Christ over our desires (Acts 17:30-31; John 3:16-18; 1 John 5:11-13). We need to trust God’s word as the authority over and above our own experience and feelings. Cultivate a hope that they are able to be controlled and directed by the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:17-24; Galatians 5:16-25).
- 2.) **Help them to understand that the opposite of Same Sex Attraction is not Opposite Sex Attraction.** The goal for each is holiness. Just as heterosexual sinners are called to live lives of either celibacy or fidelity, so people tempted by homosexual desires are called to live holy lives that reflect God’s design. The temptations may come and go, but the goal is holy, God-pleasing obedience in the *midst* of temptation.
- 3.) **Read through some of the resources listed at the end of this booklet.** For example, read together, *Can you change if you’re gay?* by David White, or *Is God anti-gay?* by Sam Allberry. Discuss with them things they learned from the resources.
- 4.) **Remind them that the goal is not the eradication of all temptation.** The goal is to not be defined by temptation and controlled by it. The goal is to enjoy God’s power to live a holy life in the midst of a broken world.

**Malachi 2:16** "For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel . . .

God hates divorce, but still loves divorced people.

We likewise are to hate all sin, but to love all sinners.

Because of the confusion and contentiousness of the current debate, I think that it is important that we as Christians clearly understand:

- What the Bible says about gender identity and same sex marriages.
- How we should act towards those who are caught up in a gay and lesbian lifestyle, and
- Ways we can help fellow believers who struggle with same-sex attraction.

## I. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY AND SAME SEX MARRIAGES

### 1.) **The Bible says that God is the final determiner of what is *right* and what is *wrong*.**

He is our Maker and we are accountable to Him. He knows what is best for us and society. The Bible is God’s instruction manual to us. It is the final authority in matters of right and wrong, of good and evil.

God judged Israel on several occasions for choosing to ignore His moral standards and establishing their own.

**Judges 21:25** In those days . . . everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

**Isaiah 5:20** Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil . . .

God designed and implemented marriage. He has the right to define it.

**2.) God designed that human sexual conduct was to occur within the context of marriage between one man and one woman.**

**a.) God differentiated the human race into two complementary genders.**

**Genesis 1:27** God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

God made the woman like the man, but different. God has stamped our gender in the nucleus of every cell of our bodies. Just like our species is genetically identifiable, so is our gender. What if I identified myself more with gorillas than humans? What if I wanted to be a gorilla? What if I thought of myself as a gorilla? Does that make me a gorilla? What if I had my nose surgically changed, hair implants, and steroid shots? Would I be a gorilla? Both my true species and gender are determined by my biology, not my psychology. God has stamped both in the nucleus of every cell of my body and yours.

**b.) God then applied the example of Adam and Eve to *all marriages*:**

**Genesis 2:24** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. The two become one flesh both physically in

yourself. After all, who are you to tell someone where they can and can't walk? Who are you to say that someone can't walk backwards? You are dumbfounded, but there you are, the object of everyone's wrath. Suppose, furthermore, that God created children to need both a father and a mother to model gender diversity. Suppose that homosexuality in the end is destructive not just to society but to the individual homosexuals themselves. Supposing all the above are true, would it be "hateful" to oppose same-sex marriages?"

- 8.) Explain that same-sex marriage is not a matter of civil rights along the same lines as the civil rights movement of the 1960's.** God created and loves all races. Race is genetically determined, not a matter of choice. One's race is never called a "sin." No black person has ever left his race but many people have left their homosexual orientation. For many homosexuals their journey to freedom began when they realized that their sexual orientation is not the essence of their personhood.
- 9.) Explain that two-parent, biologically linked households are best for children.** Gay advocates argue that studies show no adverse effects, yet there has been court testimony that the studies have all been tainted.

**IV. HOW CAN WE HELP FELLOW BELIEVERS WHO STRUGGLE WITH SAME-SEX ATTRACTIONS?**

When addressing homosexuals it is important to see this opportunity as a *person* to help, not an *issue* to address.

identity!...We have enrolled in the ultimate witness protection program and have been issued a new name, 'beloved', a new address 'in Christ Jesus', and a new reason to live, 'a holy calling'. The gospel penetrates to the root of the heterosexual and homosexual dilemma: Who am I? Whose am I?' (Hubbard, p.26, 27; see 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 4:24)

- c. **Help them to understand that all of us continue to battle temptations.** Let them know that old cravings still hunt and haunt every sinner, but our current struggles are not the final word. Our ultimate hope is fulfilled in the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:3-4). We live in the presence of the One who knows our hearts. Even when we don't know why we do what we do, God knows, and we can pray (Psalm 139:23, 24).

- 7.) **Explain that opposition to same-sex marriage is not about hate but about debate.** There is a difference between arguing for the preservation of marriage and being hateful of homosexuals.

**Erwin Lutzer** uses the following analogy in his book, *The Truth About Same Sex Marriage*:  
"Imagine that you are standing at the bottom of a cliff and you are watching as someone on the ledge above you is walking backwards, and in a few steps he will surely fall over the precipice. You shout, warning him to stop, and before you know it, a crowd gathers around you, snapping your picture and accusing you of "hate speech." You are being warned to keep your prejudices to

the sex act and biologically in every child that they produce.

- ◇ This "one flesh" sexual union was thus established as the pattern for marriage generally.

**3.) God prohibits all sexual intercourse outside of the marriage relationship between one *man* and one *woman*. God prohibits:**

- Premarital sex (Ex 22:16-17; Dt. 22:20-29)  
Adultery (Ex. 20:14; Matt. 19:18; Rom. 13:9; James 2:11)  
Prostitution (1 Cor. 6:15-18)  
Incest (Lev. 20:11-21; 1 Cor. 5:1-2)  
Homosexuality (Lev. 18:22; 20:13)  
Bestiality (Lev. 18:23; 20:15-16)

**4.) God views homosexual conduct as an *abomination*.**

**Leviticus 18:22** 'You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

**Abomination-** (Hebrew- *to'ebah*) refers to actions that are extremely displeasing to God.

**Leviticus 20:13** 'If *there is* a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act . . .

**Detestable** is the same word translated abomination in the previous passage.

In this passage it is irrelevant whether the relationship is monogamous or not. This

passage is **not** in a context of pagan worship with some homosexual prostitute as some would like to claim. Leviticus 20:10-16 groups homosexual sin together with other sex prohibitions (incest, adultery, bestiality) which were never a part of pagan rituals.

**Some argue that the Old Testament is not binding on people today.** The problem with that argument is that we see homosexual conduct prohibited in the New Testament also.

**Romans 1:26-27** For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is *unnatural*,<sup>27</sup> and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing *indecent acts* and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

- ◇ *Unnatural* means that it is contrary to what God intended when he made men and women with physical bodies that have a “natural” way of interacting with each other. Paul does not say “contrary to *their* nature,” but “contrary to nature” (Gk. *para physin*). This is a phrase that is used several times in literature outside the Bible to speak of homosexual conduct as something contrary to the natural order of the world.
- ◇ *Indecent acts*- contrary to both God’s purpose and design

**confused about their orientations.** Don’t paint all in the gay community with the same brush. Many young people wish they could be different but feel like they can’t get out. They often feel lonely, misunderstood, rejected, and marginalized. Those struggling with same-sex attraction need loving help, not rejection.

- 4.) **Emphasize that homosexuality is not an unforgiveable sin.** Some Christians in the early church had come out of homosexual lifestyles. Cf 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- 5.) **Extend hope for change.** Many homosexuals will say that they long to establish a different pattern of life. However, a number of studies have concluded that long-term change from a homosexual lifestyle seldom occurs without consistent help and encouragement from others. Christians struggling with same-sex attraction need loving help not rejection.
- 6.) **Explain that the Gospel offers hope for change.**
  - a. **Help them to understand that they are people like us. We are all marred image-bearers of God. (Gen 1:27).** She too is fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps 139). She, like me, is an object of God’s redemptive work.
  - b. **Help them to understand that they can find a new identity in Christ.** Peter Hubbard in his book, “Love Into Light”, insightfully writes, “The Gospel is not an invitation to do better or try harder. It is a death certificate that unfolds into a new birth certificate, providing us with a new

obedience and real, substantive change. In Christ there is forgiveness. In Christ there is hope for change. Paul indicates that this is precisely what happened with some who had practiced homosexuality in Corinth. The same is happening today in the lives of many. (See ‘Helpful Resources’ at the end of this booklet for the stories of people who found hope in Christ.)

### III. HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS RESPOND TO THOSE WHO ARE LIVING OUT THEIR HOMOSEXUAL DESIRES?

- 1.) **First, we should repent of our own sins.** We must begin with the sins we tolerate in our own lives. For example, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 lists not only homosexual sin, as disqualifying people from heaven, but many others which people in our very religious culture often downplay. Who among us is not guilty of more than one of the seven things God hates in Proverbs 6:16-19? We must repent of tolerating a double standard that treats the sin of homosexual behavior in a different way than others sins. We must repent of any hateful actions or speech against homosexuals. We must repent of any crude comments or threatening statements.
- 2.) **We should hate the *sin*, but love the *sinner*.** It is important that we always show love and compassion toward those engaged in homosexual conduct. We should not however show approval of homosexual practice.
- 3.) **Make a *distinction* between the radical gay community and the young people who are**

**1 Corinthians 6:9** Or 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 *effeminate*, nor *homosexuals*. . .

- ◇ **Effeminate** (*malakos* )- was commonly used in the Greco-Roman world to refer to the “passive” partner in homosexual acts.
- ◇ **Homosexuals** (*arsenokoitēs*) - “men who have intercourse with men” refers to the active partner in homosexual acts.

### II. Common Questions and Objections

#### 1.) “Aren’t homosexuals biologically and genetically different?”

Aren’t some people born gay? Many homosexuals say that they did not choose their homosexual orientation. Therefore they believe that homosexual behavior cannot be wrong for them.

Some argue that science supports the argument that homosexuality is determined by one’s biological makeup from before the time of birth. There were studies 20-30 years ago that purported to have found a “gay gene.” Larger and more recent studies have failed to confirm a genetic connection.

- **The *Chromosome Study* by Dean Hamer (1993)**

It was widely reported that scientists had found the “gay” gene. In the Hamer study, researchers purportedly found that gay men

had more gay male cousins and uncles on the maternal side of the family than on the paternal side of the family. They associated it with the Xq28 area of the X chromosome.

Later studies have failed to replicate the findings. Baily (1999) and McKnight and Malcolm (2000) did not find a preponderance of gay relatives on the maternal side of homosexual men. Rice (1999) failed to replicate the results of earlier tests related to the Xq28 linkage.

- **The Hypothalamus Study by Simon LeVay (1991)**

LeVay concluded that the hypothalamus of heterosexual men was significantly larger than that of homosexual men. LeVay's study however is far from conclusive.

- ◇ All the homosexual males in LeVay's study had AIDS.
- ◇ LeVay's study could not determine whether the changes in the hypothalamus were the cause or a consequence of the person's sexual orientation.
- ◇ 3 of the 19 homosexual men had a larger than normal hypothalamus.
- ◇ 3 of the 16 men in the non-homosexual control group had a smaller than average hypothalamus
- ◇ A later study by William Byne and colleagues didn't corroborate LeVay's findings.

Someone's experience should not be used as a higher standard for moral right and wrong than God's Word.

## 5.) "Will God forgive homosexual sin?"

Jesus died to pay the penalty for all sin, including homosexual sins.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11** Or 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 effeminate, nor homosexuals,<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.<sup>11</sup> **Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.**

## 6.) "Can homosexuals change their orientation?"

Some former homosexuals were in the church at Corinth. They had been washed by Jesus Christ. They had left their previously sinful lifestyle by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This does not mean that homosexual desires will automatically or necessarily be eradicated for those who come to Christ. Becoming a Christian does not mean that we will no longer experience sinful temptations (sexual or otherwise). But genuine faith does produce the fruit of

**3.) “Jesus never addressed the subject of homosexuality. He did teach us to love and accept everyone.”**

There are several flaws in this argument.

- Just because we have no record of Jesus addressing an issue doesn't mean that He *approved* of it. Jesus didn't address rape, incest, or bestiality either. Does that mean He approved of them?
- Jesus did teach that we are to love everyone. He did not however teach that we are to approve of their sins.
- Jesus does *judge* people.

**Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.<sup>22</sup> "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'<sup>23</sup> "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

**4.) “Some homosexual couples have faithful, fulfilling relationships, so why should these be thought to be immoral?”**

LeVay later stated, “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.”

• **The Identical Twin Study by J. M. Bailey and R. C. Pillard (1991, 1993)**

It was found that if one identical twin was homosexual there was disproportionate chance that their twin would also be homosexual. The results of this study showed a 52% correspondence for male homosexuals and a 48% correspondence for lesbians. More recent and more extensive research has found a much lower correspondence. Baily, Dunne, and Martin (2000) studied 4901 twins and found only a 30% correspondence. Bearman and Bruckner (2002) found an even smaller correspondence

If homosexuality is controlled entirely by genetics, we would expect to find that if one identical twin is homosexual the other would also be 100% of the time. Obviously that isn't the case.

• **Prenatal Neurodevelopment Study by Qazi Rahman (2005)**

Rahman postulated that homosexuality is a result a certain hormone in the mother's blood during pregnancy. The level of this hormone increases in the mother with each successive

pregnancy. There are several problems with this hypothesis.

- ◇ It used non-representative samples of data with abnormally high levels of synthetic estrogen.
- ◇ It fails to explain homosexual males who are not last-born.
- ◇ There was no substantial difference in the postnatal hormone levels between homosexuals and heterosexuals.

***In spite of statements to the contrary, no scientific study has proven a biological or genetic cause for homosexuality.***

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
PEDIATRICIANS: article, The Best for  
Children 3/31/10

“. . . there is no scientific evidence that an individual is born “gay” or “transgender.”

Dr. Francis Collins, former Director of the Genome Project, has stated that while homosexuality may be genetically influenced, it is “. . . not hardwired by DNA, and that whatever genes are involved represent predispositions, not predeterminations.”

(For a more detailed explanation of the studies see the book ***Ethic for a Brave New World*** by Feinberg and Feinberg)

## 2.) “What does the Bible say about homosexual desires and temptations?”

Many homosexuals say that they did not choose their sexual orientation. They believe that they were born that way.

- **The Bible teaches that we are all born with a fallen nature. All of us are *tempted by various kinds of sinful desires.*** We are all tempted to do a variety of things that God calls sin. One study shows that as many as 26% of 12 year olds at some point are sexually confused or experience same-sex attraction. But the vast majority do not act upon it and this confusion goes away during puberty.

**James 1:14** But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

**Galatians 5:16-17** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another . . .

- **Temptation is not in itself *sin*.** The Bible says that Jesus was tempted in all things as we are, yet He didn't sin. cf Hebrews 4:15
- **Just because we desire to do something doesn't mean that it is the *right thing for us to do.*** Just because we are tempted by something doesn't mean that we were created that way. It does NOT mean that “*we must be true to ourselves*” and act on it. No one would say that a person tempted to steal, rape, murder, or molest a child should “*be true to who they are*” and follow their desires.