

What does the Bible say about Gender and Homosexuality?

Resources:

- 1) *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert* by Rosaria Champagne Butterfield (actually any book by her is fantastic)
Good Q&A podcast with her: <https://leadership.lifeway.com/2019/01/22/5lq-episode-309-rosaria-butterfield/>
- 2) *God and the Transgender Debate* by Andrew T. Walker (Forwarded by Dr. Mohler)
- 3) *Spectacular Sins* by John Piper
- 4) *Faces of Evil* by John Feinberg
- 5) *How Long O Lord?* by D.A. Carson
- 6) Greg Morse (Desiring God Article): <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/play-the-man-you-are>
- 7) Jason (JBMW): <https://cbmw.org/topics/transgenderism/jbmw-21-1-confronting-the-transgender-storm-new-covenant-reflections-from-deuteronomy-225/>
- 8) *Passions of the Heart: Biblical Counsel for Stubborn Sexual Sins* by Dr. John Street

Clarity is important

“Satan tries to obscure sins, by *rendering them nearly impossible to define*. He smuggles effeminacy into the church by forbidding any specific definition.” -Greg Morse (<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/play-the-man-you-are>)

Clear at Creation: God made them male and female

There is no in-between, no confusion here...

*“God created man in his own image, in the **image of God** he created him; **male and female** he created them ... and it was **very good**.”* **Gen 1:27**

- Every time God made something in Genesis 1, He called it “good.”
- But when God was done made man, male and female, He called it “**very good**.”

Jesus said, *“Have you not read that [God] who created them from the beginning made them **male and female**? Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh”*

Matt. 19:4-5 (cf. Mark 10:6)

Paul said, *“... because of immoralities, each **man** should have his own **wife**”* **1 Cor 7:2**

It is clear God created mankind this way. There is no flipping or moving or changing what He created. Nor should there be a desire to change, for that would be desiring evil. Desiring to undo what God created as **very** good.

God does not make mistakes

“God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?” **Num. 23:19**

Any real physical issues is because of mankind’s sin

Sin and death has marred the human condition...

The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, *for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*” **Gen. 2:16–17**

If you know anything about biology that anything that deviates away from the normal function of a cell or genetic code is a form of death and decay. It is not right. It is out of alignment. This is a result of disobedience and sin that was introduced into the world by man. Of which, we are all partakers and bear responsibility (cf. Rom. 3:10-18; 3:23; 5:12).

So, therefore, anyone born with an extra chromosome or actual birth defects is not because God made a mistake. But because man sinned against God and now all of creation bears the consequence of that sin.

How is changing gender a sin?

“A woman shall not wear a man’s clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman’s clothing; for whoever does these things is an **abomination** to the LORD your God” **Deut. 22:5**

In the day when Moses was given this command, the ancient civilizations could not perform the medical procedures we have today. Therefore, if they wanted to be a different gender they could remove certain external body parts, and definitely changed their clothing and behavior.

Clothing was the first step. However with our medical advancements humanity goes beyond that.

So if God is calling mere crossdressing an abomination, then clearly gender change is an abomination. Essentially saying, “God got it wrong the first time.” **Thus calling God a liar!**

If one does commit such a sin, then changing their gender does not change the statement of the law about homosexuality in **Lev. 18:22**... “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; **it is an abomination.**”

Conclusion

Straying away from God's clear design, and what He has declared as **very good**, is sinful. It is a result of humanity's sinful nature. It is sinful to desire something other than what God created one to be.

*"For this reason God gave them up to **dishonorable passions**. 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, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error."*

Rom. 1:26–27

Appendix

What about "desire"?

Scripture has several words for passion...

"Desire" in a general sense (Greek: *Επιθυμία* = "epithumia")

The term has a *strong* sense of *longing* to obtain something. The longing only becomes bad if it that *something* is forbidden or context defines it as such.

It is used interchangeably between positive and negative.

Positive

*"Truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people **longed** to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it" **Matt. 13:17***

*"Jesus said to them, 'I have earnestly **desired** to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" **Luk. 22:15***

*"The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he **desires** a noble task" **1 Tim. 3:1***

Negative

*"You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not **covet**" **Rom 13:9** -- Covet here is where Paul ascribed "epithumia" to "covet" in the commandment written in Exodus 20*

*"Now these things took place as examples for us, so that we might not **desire** evil as they did" **1 Cor 10:6***

*“What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to **covet** if the law had not said, ‘You shall not **covet**’”*
Rom. 7:7

Both Positively and Negatively

*“For the **desires** of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the **desires** of the Spirit are against the flesh...” Gal. 5:17*

What about “passion” and “desire” in 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, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and **burned** in their **desire** toward one another...” Rom. 1:26-27*

→ Look at the full context... What “reason”?

→ Note that “degrading **passions**” is different than “**desire**”

“Passions” is πάθος (v.26) This has “*experience of strong desire.*” Typically it is of sexual nature (BDAG #5484). This is a passion that overcomes, almost like from without. It does not seem to be a self-inflicted passion. However, ultimately it could be given the context that men ultimately were given over to this because of their rejection of God (1 Th. 4:5, Col 3:5, and Rom 1:26).

Side Note: This word derives from the word (πάθημα - *Patheima* / “*suffering*”) used in regard to Christ’s death and events leading up to his death (2 Cor. 1:5; 1 Pt. 4:13, 5:1; and others).

“Desire” is ὄρεξις (v.27) The greek lexicons give it a stronger definition because of its paring with ἐκκαίω “*inflamed*”. This word is used much like we use the word “*craving.*” It was used elsewhere in the NT. In a positive sense: Heb 11:16 (“*Faith craves a better country...*”). In the negative sense: 1 Tim. 6:10 (“*... some by craving for [money] have wandered away...*”).

*“Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, **passion**, **evil desire**, and **covetousness (NAU: greed)**, which is idolatry” Col. 3:5*

“Desire” is the generic term, but qualified with “evil”

“Passion” is the same word used in Romans 1:27

“Covetousness” is a different word, it lines up more with the word “greed.”

NOTE: “Covetousness” and “Greed” are more specific than “desire.” Our english word for “desire” requires more context, just like the Greek word “epithumia.”

Where is this coming from?

Matt. 12:34 – “... for the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart” (cf. *Matt. 15:18-19; Mar. 7:21*)

How did humanity get here?

First note: Rom. 1:18-20 – This is about man’s Position before God! *“All ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...”*

Rom. 1:21-31 – How mankind eventually ends up in this condition...

Rom 1:21-23 – Reject God

Rom. 1:24-26 – Worshiped Creation

Rom. 1:28-31 – Forgot Him (“did not retain God in their knowledge” NKJV)

It's important to understand that none of us are exempt from this! We were all on this road at one point in our life!