

Biblical Ethics: Homosexuality

Situational Perspective:

1. Historical Developments
 - a. Ancient Presence & Opinions
 - b. Turning Points
2. Current Status
 - a. Close to Home: Atlanta Fire Chief
 - b. National Status: Supreme Court & Marriage
 - c. Media & Entertainment
 - d. Every day life
3. Points of View
 - a. Genetics (Ontological: 'being')
 - i. Brain Disposition, Mannerisms, & Attraction
 - b. Lifestyle 'Choice'
 - c. Deviance or Perversion of the Image of God

****How do we know what we know in these scenarios? Good or Problematic?**

Normative Perspective

1. Genesis 1-2
 - a. What do we learn about God's design for humanity's 'being' (ontology)?
 - b. What do we learn about God's design for humanity's 'purpose/end' (theological)?
2. Genesis 3:1-8 (cf.—Gen. 6, 11, 18-19, Judges 19:1-30)
 - a. What does the Fall reveal about the source of knowing? Who is the source of knowing? What are the dangers? How does it relate to how 'we know' about this ethical issue?
 - b. Where does this source of knowing lead us? What is at stake?
 - c. How are we to think about the plea of those who state that 'this is how God made me'? How deep does the 'Fall' go in the human person? (Romans 1-3)
3. New Testament Witness: I Corinthians 6:9-11, 13-20; I Timothy 8-11; Jude 5-7; Romans 1:18-27

Existential Perspective

1. Struggling & Unaffected Christians
 - a. Being & Identity (Genesis 1-2)
 - b. We All Struggle W/ Something (Galatians 5:16-17)
 - c. Gospel-centered Confession & Repentance (Grace, Mercy, & Correction)
 - d. Union with the 'Life of Christ' (Galatians 6:1-5: holistically—'gentleness')
 - e. Dangers of A Misplaced Ontology—Where does it end individually & corporately? (Galatians 5:18-24)

Next Week's Class:

Divorce and Remarriage

Main Passages: Malachi 2:10-16; Matthew 19:3-12; Mark 10:11-12; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16

Questions:

- What does the Lord desire for marriage? How does the marriage covenant mirror God's covenant with his people? In what ways does that or should that impact our view of divorce and remarriage?
- According to the texts above, what circumstances are given that make divorce or remarriage permissible? In Matthew and Mark, what is Jesus protecting against? How do these passages relate to other situations commonly associated with divorce and/or separation, such as abuse?
- What are our culture's general attitudes toward marriage and divorce? How do we as Christians sometimes follow the wider culture in our view of marriage and divorce?
- How does one reconcile the differences between Matthew 5:31-32/Matthew 19:3-9 and Mark 10:11-12/Luke 16:18?

Other texts for further interest (if you so choose): Genesis 2:20-25; Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Jeremiah 3:6-8; Ezekiel 16:59-63.