

# Homosexuality, the Bible, and the Christian

Grace bible church - January 21, 2024

## 1. What the Bible says<sup>1</sup>

Genesis 19 (Ezekiel 16:50; Jude 7)

Leviticus 18:22, 20:13

Romans 1

1 Corinthians 6:9–10; 1 Timothy 1:9–10

## 2. Why Identity Is So Important

## 3. Five Ministry Priorities for Those Struggling with Same-Sex Attraction<sup>2</sup>

### a. **Ministry Priority #1: Overcome a 'don't ask, don't tell' mindset**

### b. **Ministry Priority #2: "Emphasize identity in Christ over sexual identity."**

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

### c. **Ministry Priority #3: "Don't confuse temptation with sin."**

i. **The Bible definitely teaches it is possible to be tempted without sinning (James 1:13-15; 1 Cor. 10:13; Hebrews 4:15).**

ii. **Temptations may arise from within (the flesh), from the world (situations, circumstances, particular allurements), or from the devil.**

iii. **Sin occurs not simply at the level of outward actions but inward thoughts and intentions (Matthew 5:27-28).**

iv. **No desire is neutral, per se.**

v. **It's appropriate to seek change at the level of our desires, affections, and motivations.**

Galatians 5:24 *And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*  
Colossians 3:5 *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*

**“Practical guidelines for facing temptation”**

- Literally turn away
- Call out to God in prayer
- Get angry at Satan
- Consider what good work God is calling you to do right now
- Pray for the person you're attracted to if you're often around them
- Ask, "Am I fighting this desire or fueling it?"

**d. Ministry Priority #4: Have realistic, biblical expectations for change**

**e. Ministry Priority #5: Create a context for both singles and married couples to thrive in your church**

"Holy sexuality consists of two paths: chastity in singleness and faithfulness in marriage. Chastity is more than simply abstention from extramarital sex; it conveys purity and holiness. Faithfulness is more than merely maintaining chastity and avoiding illicit sex; it conveys covenantal commitment." (*Holy Sexuality*, 47)

4. Resources

[gbcmurrieta.church/identity-seminar](http://gbcmurrieta.church/identity-seminar)

*The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*, by Robert Gagnon

*Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God's Grand Story*, by Christopher Yuan

*The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*, by Rosaria Butterfield, and *Five Lies of Our Anti-Christian Age*, by Rosaria Butterfield and Kevin DeYoung

<sup>1</sup>*What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality*, by Kevin DeYoung

<sup>2</sup>"Five Ministry Priorities for Those Struggling with Same-Sex Attraction" by Michael R. Emlet, *Journal of Biblical Counseling* 28:3 (2014) 15-41

*Love Into Light: The Gospel, the Homosexual and the Church*, by Peter Hubbard