



Introduction

What is a biblical view concerning sexual preference and sexuality? For thousands of years, Judaism and Christianity have stood on the position that sex and sexuality are sacred and that the only form of sexual relationship condoned by God is the exclusive monogamous relationship between a married man and woman. Is that a valid view of sexual expression, even in our modern day? If so, what is the biblical basis for such a view?

The foundation for a Christian worldview rests upon the Bible itself, God's revelation to mankind. If we want to understand and abide by God's will for our lives as individuals, families, the church, and society, we must clearly understand and base our views upon the truths found within scripture.

Rooted in Scripture

The very first reference to sexuality comes early in the Bible, in the book of Genesis. God created the man Adam, and recognizing Adam's need for a helper¹, he proceeded to create the first woman, Eve. God formed Eve "out of Adam," from his rib. And rather than forming her in an identical way to Adam, He created her with unique and complementary differences. Our modern understanding of science affirms these unique differences, recognizing a man's DNA to be different from that of a woman. Notably, in evaluating the structure of the 23rd Chromosome, males are marked with an "XY" chromosomal pair, while females are marked with "XX." This is a fascinating and undeniable fact that results in distinctive differences between males and females. God was clear in His original creative design that He intended for man and woman to be distinctively different, and to pair together.

Genesis 1:27–28 — *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 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."*

By instructing Adam & Eve to "be fruitful and increase in number," God commissioned them to do what only a man and a woman can naturally do – come together in sexual union to form a new life. When a man and a woman get married and consummate their marriage, they "become one flesh" in the sense of forming a new Spiritual union, as well as forming a new living being.

Genesis 2:24 — *That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

¹ The word helper in **Hebrew (ezer)** means "to protect, aid, help, succor." It denotes "assistance rendered at a point of real need... effective strength supplied from outside." *Ezer* carries no sense of subordination or weakness — in fact, it's most often used in the Bible **of God Himself**. The term usually designates divine help, especially in the Psalms, e.g., Psalm 33:20, "the Lord is our *ezer* and our shield."



The foundation of sex and sexuality begins here, rooted in God's creative design.

Affirmed in Scripture

From the very beginning in Genesis therefore, and all throughout the narrative of scripture, we see male-female relationships as the norm and never condemned, except in the cases of adultery, fornication, and other forms of sexual sin that deviate from God's original intention. In his earthly life, Jesus repeated God's creative design for sexual union with the following words:

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate." (Matthew 19:4-6)

What about Homosexuality?

Having discussed the scriptural foundation for male-female unions, let us now turn to consider homosexual relationships. Our current culture has embraced homosexual expression, pushing back against traditional Biblical views on the matter. To be perfectly obedient to the Lord, we need again look to Scripture to see what God has established. When we do so, we find that nowhere in the entire narrative of scripture are male-male or female-female forms of sexual expression condoned or affirmed.

In Genesis 19 in the Old Testament, homosexual activity is brought up in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, where a large group of men make forceful attempts to express selfish sexual desires. Their behaviors are referred to in the narrative as "wicked" (Gen 19:7).

The events of Sodom and Gomorrah happen chronologically prior to the implementation of Levitical Law, which further sets in place the clear condemnation of homosexual relations:

Leviticus 18:22 — *"Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable."*

Leviticus 20:13 — *"If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable."*

When we turn to the New Testament, we discover Paul reaffirming that which we find in the Old Testament. In the beginning of his letter to the Romans, as well as in 1 Corinthians and 1 Timothy, he writes the following:

Romans 1:26-27 — *Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way, the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.*



1 Corinthians 6:9–11 — *Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

1 Timothy 1:9–11 — *We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.*

Good and Holy

The Bible calls only one form of marriage good and holy, and that is the marital union of a man and a woman. Nowhere does it condone homosexual relations. It is clear from Scripture that homosexual behavior is considered sinful and a disruption of God's creative design for humanity.

As the Creator, God has the liberty to set the bounds within which humanity is to live. This is true for all areas of life, including sexuality and sexual activity. The Bible makes clear that every one of us is to flee from sexual sin, as these forms of sin are committed against our own bodies, which belong to the Lord. This includes all forms of sexual sin, or "*porneia*", which would include pornography, fornication, rape, incest, sodomy, and more. These sins defile people and distort the gift of sex, further marring the image of God in its purest expression in humanity.

Romans 8:12–13 — *Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

It's not sexual temptation that is sinful, but rather what is done in response to the temptation that can become sinful. Whether a person is tempted with homosexual desire or heterosexual desire that deviates from God's design, the imperative for each of us is to walk by the Spirit and lean into God!

We can be confident of this: God will provide the strength we each need to overcome temptation and to walk victoriously in His amazing love and grace. We are children of God! With obedience, God also brings His abundant blessings to bear upon His children.

Strength in the Face of Trials

In the face of trials, struggles, and temptation, let us trust in the compassion and strength of God, who can help His children. Christ is our redeemer! Every one of us may experience brokenness and none of us is without sin (1 John 1:8-10). Yet in our brokenness, we look to the Spirit and the washing



by the Word of God to accomplish the necessary and beautiful work of regeneration and renewal of our minds and hearts. No matter what manner of struggles we may face, the Word of God holds true and is the standard to which we are called – and capable – of living. God wants us to live our best life by saying “no” to the flesh and walking victoriously in all that He has for us.