

## 1. Today's world

- the culture



“In less than a generation the Christian moral vision – that human beings flourish when sexual interests are boundaried in life-long covenant between a man and a woman – has seen a profound loss of cultural power. Across Western Europe and the US, those who hold to traditional Christian sexual ethics not only find themselves on the wrong side of popular opinion, but allegedly on the ‘wrong side of history’ too.”<sup>1</sup>

- churches
- our personal lives, our families, our desires, our confusions, our fears

How do you feel? How does this ‘bite’ for you?  
What do you want to ask and know?

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<sup>1</sup> Glynn Harrison, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University of Bristol,  
<https://glynnharrison.wordpress.com/2015/06/12/a-better-story-faith-in-the-shadow-of-the-sexual-revolution/>  
Accessed 16 June 2015

## 2. God's good word for his world

- **Genesis 1-2 – the creation order**

God is *for* sex and sexuality...

He creates humanity male and female – as sexual beings (1:27) – blessing and commanding: 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule...' (1:28)

Sex is *for* marriage...

the public (2:24a), permanent (v24b), physical (v24c) union between a man and a woman

through which humanity is fruitful and increases in number

which reflects the union of Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:31-32)

Jesus says: 'the Creator did and said this' (Matthew 19:4-6)

**This is our Creator's design for us, given and good and for our good**

- **Leviticus 18 and 20 – holiness and sex in God's law**

'Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable' (Leviticus 18:22)

'If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads' (Leviticus 20:13)

"God's plan for sexual intimacy in the garden was one man with one woman – not close relatives, not the wife of another man, not a man and an animal, and not two men or two women. The pattern we saw in Genesis is the pattern we see reflected in the Holiness Code in Leviticus."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> DeYoung, *What does the Bible really teach about homosexuality?*, p42

- **Romans 1:26-27 – having turned from God...**

- A passage about “the wrath of God... being revealed against all the ungodliness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness” (1:18)
- A downward spiral of sin (“they exchanged” – vv23, 25, 26) and wrath (“God gave them over” – vv24, 26, 28)
- The Genesis creation account is alluded to throughout  
v20 – “the creation of the world”; v25 – “the Creator”; v23 – mirroring Genesis 1:26  
language of lie (v25), shame (v27), sentence of death (v32) all alluding to Genesis 3.

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10 – inheriting the kingdom**

‘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.’

*malakoi*

“being passive in a same-sex relationship”

*arsenokoitai*

“bedders of men” – language from Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13

From creation onwards, beginning to end, the one God-given place for sexual intimacy is within a marriage between a man and a woman. All same-sex sexual relationships are against God’s created order and intention and are sinful.

- **But...**

I am gay.  
It’s who I am

if you’re born  
like this, it can’t  
be wrong

you’re saying no intimacy  
for me then, but  
celibacy.... that’s so cruel.  
I’ll never be happy

doesn’t sound  
like he’s a god  
of love at all

### 3. Living for God in his world today

- Repent of your sexual sins, come to Christ, trust him, live a sexually holy life
- Don't be self-righteous judgemental homophobes
- Don't be people-pleasers, people-fearers
- Be compassionate and courageous...
- ...embodying and sharing the good news of restoration to our Creator through Christ

#### Going further:

Ed Shaw. *The plausibility problem: the church and same-sex attraction*. Nottingham: IVP, 2015

Kevin DeYoung. *What does the Bible really teach about homosexuality?* Nottingham: IVP, 2015

Glyn Harrison. *A better story: God, sex and human flourishing*. London: IVP, 2016

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield. *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*. Pittsburgh, Pa.: Crown and Covenant, 2012