

Same-sex Attraction?



Worst Exit Ever?

- How would you describe the driver?

Same Sex Marriage and Our Culture's Path

Songs of Deliverance

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

Psalm 32:1-7 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ² Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. ⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him. ⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with songs of deliverance.

- If you were writing your personal "song of deliverance", what would be the sin on which you would focus?
- About which sin would you most need to say, "thank You for loving and setting me free"?

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The Source of Same Sex Attractions (*Sue Bohlin – Probe Ministries, Bible.org Women's Leadership Team*) also serves on the Board of Directors for [Living Hope Ministries](#)

- Parental relationships
 - Gender identity confusion
 - Sexual and/or emotional abuse
 - Peer rejection
- Stages of Emotional Development
 1. Forming a close bond with our mothers
 2. Forming a close bond with our fathers
 3. Forming a close bond with our same-sex peers
 - 4 Then finally forming a close bond with opposite-sex peers
 - Any disruption in that process will have consequences in our lives.
 - No one goes through that process untouched no matter how hard parents try to make it work.

— But, not everyone who has a few bumps on that road of emotional development will have same sex attraction issues.

- **Differing Patterns for Fostering SSA in Males & Females**

- Males

1. A family dynamic that occurs so often it has become a stereotype: a distant father who is absent physically and/or emotionally, leaving what some people have called "a father-shaped hole in one's heart," and an overbearing mother or one who has an unhealthy and extremely close relationship with her son.

- This results in a boy identifying with the feminine instead of the masculine of his father.

2. Many guys who feel they are gay report having experienced some kind of sexual abuse, usually at the hand of a man.

- Abuse warps a child's sense of self, his personal sense of value and worth, and his sense of personal boundaries and his understanding of how one connects to another person relationally.

3. Many (if not most) guys who are attracted to other men also experience rejection from other boys when they are young.

- When peers call someone, especially a young male, derogatory names, it is easy for that young man to believe that he is who they are saying/insinuating he is.

- What they are saying is not the truth.

- ★ All these factors (and many others) contribute to males experiencing same-sex attraction (SSA) because they feel like they don't belong in the world of men, and are far more comfortable in the world of females.

- Females

1. Often a significant disconnect with their mothers

- It could be because their moms actually neglected, abandoned, or abused them, or it could be simply because a girl *perceived* that her mother didn't love her or connect with her.

2. A history of sexual abuse

- Various studies state it's between 66-90% of girls who experience SSA.

3. Femininity Issues

- Girls who are uncomfortable with their femininity usually reject it out of the mistaken belief that femininity is weak, vulnerable, used, and contemptuous.

- Many girls who hate their femininity do so because this was modeled by their mothers.

- Additionally, if a girl does not receive affirmation of her femininity from her father, she could easily come to believe that she is not beautiful or feminine.

- ★ A girl usually believes she is whoever her father says she is.

Explaining is Not Excusing or Calling for Approval

Culture's Inadequate Understanding of Female and Male

Genesis 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

The Broad Spectrum of Masculinity

- Aggressive, athletic male
- Artistic, creative male
- Plenty in-between
- Both ends of the spectrum, and everything in between, are legitimate; God created the spectrum of masculinity and all expressions of it should be celebrated.
- ★ Jesus had the full spectrum of masculinity: He was both a man's man, tough and unafraid, and He was unbelievably sensitive and relational at the same time.
- ★ He had the physical strength of a carpenter and the artistic mindset of a craftsman.
- ★ All kinds of people were drawn to Him.
- ★ Jesus demonstrated the fullness of the true masculine.

The Broad Spectrum of Femininity

- The princess
- The athlete
- Plenty in-between
- The tomboy terminus of the spectrum is just as God-created as the princess terminus.
- ★ When the tomboys/athletes are supported in their femininity, they can learn how to act like females without resenting it,
- ★ Often these young ladies are natural leaders and can become among the best kind of mothers and teachers of boys.

When They Label You and Call You Names

James 3:5-6 The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

1. Don't accept it as true.
 - Think of these hurtful labels as nametags with the wrong name on them.
2. Take off the label and speak the truth: "This isn't me."
 - If you're an artistic or musical guy, and someone labels you as gay, do not believe it.
 - They do not know that your place on the gender spectrum is perfectly good and perfectly God-created.
 - They simply do not understand that a different kind of masculinity does not equal an inferior kind of masculinity.
 - The same goes for athletic girls who seem different from a traditional understanding of femininity.

What About Predispositions/Genetic or Otherwise?

- Basically no data/research supporting that position.
- But let's just say that a person was created that way.
- That doesn't give us the opportunity to go against God's established boundaries.
- Alcoholic predisposition (a proven fact in some people)
- However, in some SSA strugglers, there seems to be some degree of predisposition that "sets them up," so to speak, for gender identity issues.
 - Poor hand-eye coordination in boys
 - Higher testosterone levels in girls

What Can/Should the Church Do?

1. Remember that no one is born gay and no one chooses to be gay.
 - Because of relational brokenness in families and among peers, some people experience emotional needs that they try to meet in ungodly ways.
 - Many of them are uncomfortable with their own gender; later, they discover they are attracted to others of the same sex, but this is not their choice. Acting on it, however, is.
2. Remember that change is possible.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 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 ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ ***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.

3. Remember that because we live in a fallen world, we are all broken.
 - Many people in our churches are sexually broken-victims of incest, pornography and masturbation addicts, and compulsive sex addiction.
 - Homosexuality is only one form of brokenness.
4. Remember that homosexuality grows out of broken relationships and is healed in healthy relationships, especially same-sex relationships.
 - This is one of the reasons it is essential for recovering homosexuals and lesbians to be actively involved in the church, because this is where they can find healthy, God-honoring friendships. Their homosexuality is not contagious!
5. Remember to treat all people with respect like you would anyone else.
 - They are people made in the image of God for whom Christ died-they are not their sexuality. Many people trying to come out of the gay lifestyle expect to find respect and acceptance only in the gay community. Finding it in church is immensely healing to their souls.

6. Remember to accept them all people they are, just as Jesus did.
 - Choose to accept the person, but not sinful behavior. People don't change unless they experience the grace of acceptance first.
 - But once they know they are loved and accepted, many of them are willing to do what it takes to live a life of holiness.
7. Remember to seek to see all people with God's eyes of love and acceptance, with His intention for their wholeness, healing and freedom.
 - This means depending on the Holy Spirit for divine perspective and exercising humility to recognize that first impressions are often incomplete and inaccurate.
8. Remember that the most success in overcoming same-gender attraction has occurred when strugglers experienced God as Healer through heterosexual people who were willing to come alongside them in their journeys.
 - Men helping men and women helping women
9. Remember that if someone comes in with an agenda of arrogance, demanding acceptance of their sexual sin, don't let them bully you.
 - There is a difference between welcoming the sinner and allowing him to continue in his or her rebellion.
- 10 Remember that homosexuality is sin. (*Leviticus 18:22-23; Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians. 6:9-11*)
 - Note that these verses condemn homosexual behavior, not feelings or attractions.

Five DON'TS for the Church When Encountering Someone with Same-sex Attraction

1. Don't panic.
2. Don't make false assumptions or accusations.
3. Don't shut down pastorally or emotionally.
4. Don't pass judgment.
5. Don't disclose this person's secret without permission.

Melissa Fryrear Video

A Repentant Prayer (*Written by Bob Stith, November, 1998*)