

Homosexuality: A Biblical Appraisal



Blythefield Hills Baptist Church

Size of the Community



John Hopkins University researcher, John Money, found 13% of adult males to be gay and 7% of adult females to be lesbian.

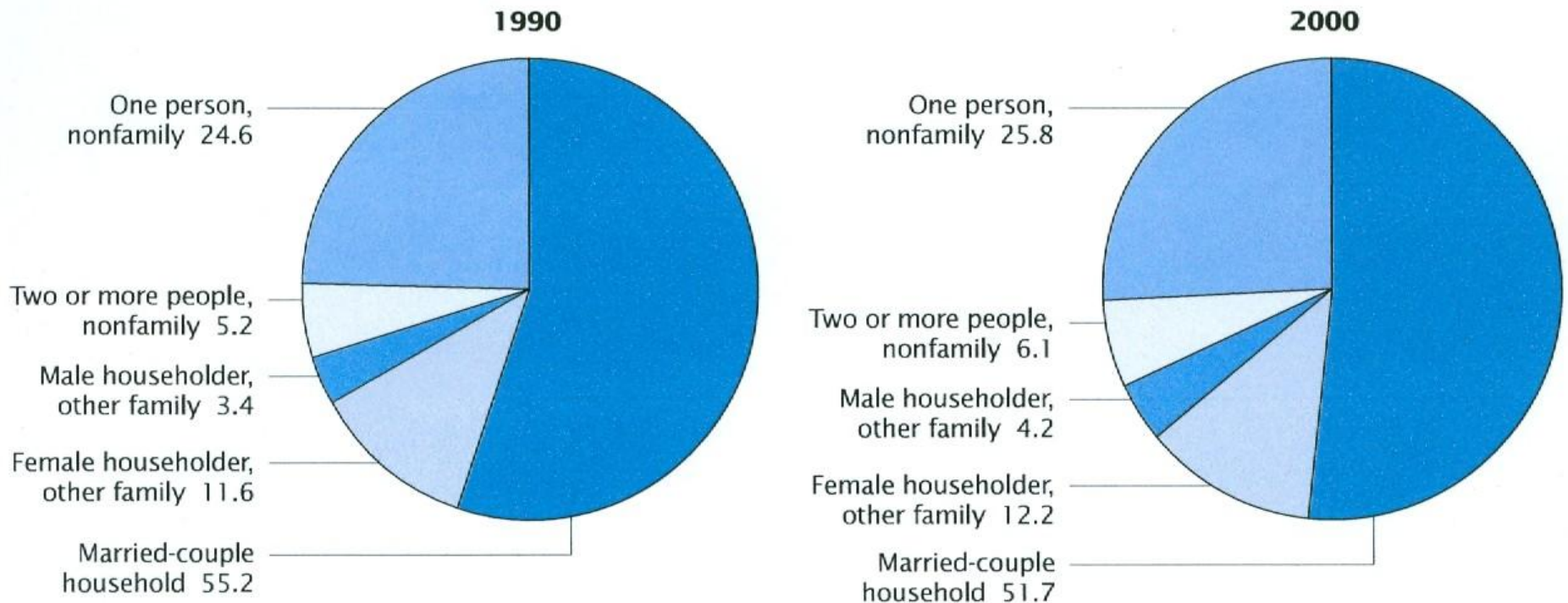
2000 Census – 105.5 million households in US. married couples(51.7 million); 5.5 million living together but unmarried; .6 million by same sex partners(301,000 had male partners and 293,000 had female partners)

2000 Census Data



Figure 2.
Households by Type: 1990 and 2000

(Percent distribution. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)



Number of Partners Study



There is such diversity in the studies it is hard to accept any study as definitive. In 1992 the Center for Disease Control studied 50 persons with AIDS - the median number of sexual partners for these men was 1,100. The range was from 200-20,000.

The control group of homosexuals without the disease had a median number of 550.

Attaining Civil Rights

The background of the slide features a blue-tinted image of the San Francisco skyline, with the Golden Gate Bridge prominently visible on the right side. The text "San Francisco" is faintly visible in the upper left corner of the image area.

Assumptions in ethics, genetics, hormonal research, environmental factors, animal studies, anthropology, psychology, biblical studies and political thought have contributed to our society accepting homosexuality in the home, church and state. The homosexual agenda, in order to accomplish this broad cultural toleration, has been achieved through a kind of “rhetorical terrorism” by the polemicists for homosexual rights.

Success of the Efforts

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It is not possible to judge whether the incidence of homosexuality is more prevalent today than in former days. It is not even possible to determine whether it is growing faster than ever before in the US.

One thing can be known, it has much more visibility today than ever before. Both the organized and unorganized movement to accept homosexuality as an acceptable alternative life style has infiltrated every sector of society and every area of culture: from the church to television and movies and from education to the courts their civil rights are being established.

Suggested Causes ...

1. Genetic and Chromosomal Factors – a form of reductionism
2. Hormonal imbalance before birth and after birth – another form of reductionism
3. Environmental factors in the home, dysfunctional family pathology
4. Intrinsic to the personality of the person as a constitutional element of personhood

Genetic Origin...



1. Past Research –
 - A. Simon LeVay – dissection of the brain of 19 gay men showed smaller hypothalamus...
 - B. Bailey & Pillard studied identical and fraternal twins - higher in identical ...
 - C. Dean Hamer – studied a section of the X chromosome in the families of 40 gay men and argued that it was maternal and genetic...
2. All Three agree today that their research does not prove that there is a gay gene -

Current Research Viewpoint

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1. No one has been able to relate any aspect of human social behavior to any particular gene or set of genes or has a research plan for doing so.
2. Sexual orientation is genetically influenced and whatever constitutes the influence represents a predisposition but not a predetermination.
3. Behavior results from the activity of multiple genes amidst the influence of multiple factors in the environment.

Against Nature?

1. National History Museum – Norway
 - A. Reported in over 1500 species
 - B. Documented for 500 species
 - C. Proves homosexual behavior is not a crime against nature
2. Argument: Homosexual behavior is observed in animals therefore, homosexuality is in accord with animal nature. Man is an animal and therefore homosexuality is in accord with human nature.

The Formal Argument

If something is observed in animal behavior then it is in accord with nature

Homosexual behavior is observed in animals

Therefore: homosexual behavior in animals is in accord with nature

If homosexual behavior occurs in animals then it is in accord with nature

Man is an animal with homosexual behavior

Therefore: homosexual behavior in man is in accord with nature

Constitutional Homosexuality



Many admit that the Bible condemns certain homosexual acts (rape etc.). They argue that the Bible does not deal with constitutional homosexuality which is intrinsic to the personality of certain people and therefore not morally blameworthy. Homosexual activity by heterosexuals is condemned but not responsible relationships between constitutional homosexuals.

Public Health Issues

1. Sexually transmitted diseases – much higher instances in this community...50% of all new cases of syphilis occur in the male homosexual community.
2. Rectal gonorrhea –
3. Aids – over 75% of aids patients are from the homosexual community and intravenous drug abusers

Initial Biblical Assessment

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Humans enter the world with a depraved nature. The environment they live in also bears the marks of sin. When choice results from the interaction of a fallen human nature and a social environment marked by sin, homosexuality is one of the alternatives that is chosen in this interaction. Scripture views people as accountable for the acts of their fallen nature in the corrupt environment. They are held responsible for how they chooses to interact with fellow fallen creatures and with the physical and social ethos of their environment.

The Biblical Idea of Marriage

Created a Unity with a Difference

So God created Man in His image...

In the Image of God created He him...

Male & Female created He them...

The Biblical Idea of Marriage

Man: *Imago Dei*

1. Image - Relationships
 - a. Related to God - obedience
 - b. Related to the woman - coordination
 - c. Related to the created order - ruler
2. Image - Capacities (language, reason choice)
3. Image - Reflection of the Trinity (unity/plurality, equality of value/differentiation of function)

The Biblical Idea of Marriage

Marriage a Creation Ordinance

Man Incomplete - 2:18

Creation of the Woman - 2:21-23

God's Command - 2:24, Mt. 19:4-9

The Biblical Idea of Marriage

Basic Constituent Elements

1. Leave/Forsake - break with established pattern 2:24
2. Cleave/Be Glued Together -
3. Covenant Commitment - (vertical covenant with God, Proverbs 2:17; horizontal covenant with wife, Malachi 2:14)

The Biblical Idea of Marriage

The Purposive Elements

1. Image God in the world - 1:26-27
2. Complete the Unity with a Difference One Flesh - Companion/Helper 2:18
3. Procreation - fill the earth 1:28



Observations and Summary

1. The Issues are significant and have moral and political consequence. The agenda is known and published with the hope of accomplishing most of it by 2010.
2. Meaningful Personal Support for those Seeking Change - not left with stern warning from a distant and repulsed body of people. Hope in the power of Divine Grace. Our message is not a message of powerless grace.

Observations and Summary

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3. We must find creative ways to avoid the either/or of bigotry or support.
4. The human heart is the driving disposition behind chosen actions (Issues of Life). It is from this inherited disposition in Adam that sinful actions originate. Humans sin because they are sinners.
5. No matter what the risk in the violent rhetoric of this debate the church must continue to speak the truth while sustaining an open invitation to all to repent and believe in the only Savior.

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The End