

# *Biblical Basis for Heterosexual Behavior: An Evaluation of Homosexuality*



West Cannon Baptist Church

# Current Research Viewpoint

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.

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.

# 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, affections, emotions)
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

# Post Flood: The Curse on Canaan

1. The story of Noah's drunkenness
2. Ham's response to his father's nakedness
3. Shem and Japheth's response
4. Noah's prophetic pronouncement of curse
5. The origin of the Canaanite culture

# Genesis 19: Sodom and ...

1. Angels' visit to the city
2. Lot's concern for their safety
3. The demand of the men...*bring them out they we may know them (yada)*
4. Lots attempt to substitute his daughters who have never known (yada) a man
5. Smitten with blindness
6. Judgment on the 5 cities of the round of Jordon

# Judges 19: 16-27

1. Base fellows...
2. Bring out the man that we *may know him*..
3. They *knew and abused* concubine all night and she was dead in the morning...
4. No way to escape the meaning of *know* in this context

# Leviticus 18:20-23

## Man lying with Man

1. Many argue this is cultic and ceremonial and thus not a universal demand
2. In 18:20 it is against adultery
3. In 18:21 it is child sacrifice
4. In 18:22 it is man with man
5. In 18:23 it is bestiality
6. In all of these the sanction is death for the one who does such things

# Key New Testament Texts

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1. Romans 1:18-32 – Gentile guilt before God and their need of the gospel...
2. 1 Corinthians 6:9 – exclusion from the Kingdom – *malakos* and *arsenokoitai*...
3. 1 Timothy 1:10 – *arsenokoitai*...
4. Jude 7 – a commentary on the events in Sodom...



# 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

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.

# Homosexuality: A Biblical Appraisal



*The End*