

Series	Living by Faith
Study	Study 4
Topic	Homosexuality In The New Testament (Part 2)
Reference	Romans 1
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Speaker	Dr Peter Ng

Alright, so we're going to do the homosexuality in the New Testament. Let's start with a word of prayer...

Let's go to homosexuality. We have already dealt with passages in Genesis, as well as, Leviticus, which is the main crux. The verse actually tells directly that homosexuality is not a godly thing. So we are going to look at Romans Chapter 1 and have a bit of read.

- *Romans 1:18-20 (ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*
- *Romans 1:21-23 (ESV) For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*

So here we actually have people suppressing the truth, the truth about the nature of God, the truth about God's creation, which he designed for this specific purpose in mind, which includes male and female, and that is already clear, but we decided to suppress the truth and in suppressing the truth, we live a lie. Because it is either truth or lie, or non-truth is a lie, so therefore that leads to idolatry, a reversal of values then you have a punitive consequence, which God allows his people to have,

- *Romans 1:24-25 (ESV) Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonouring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.*

So here we have a suppression of the truth and that is central to the nature and being of humans sexuality. Of all the sins, I mean God could have talked about, you know, telling lies or cheating on your taxes or doing something dodgy, but He focuses on this issue of sexuality.

- *Romans 1:26-27 (ESV) For this reason God gave them up to dishonourable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.*

This is very, very clear. You have to look at the actual language here and then you look at all the defenses people who support homosexuality bring up.

The women exchanged natural relations with those that are contrary to nature. Men likewise gave up natural relations with women.

So therefore you can find this natural relations with the opposite sex. It's very clear.

and were consumed with passion

They didn't do it falsely one another, they were consumed with passion for another men.

men committing shameless acts with men

So it is very clear.

receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Now homosexuality is necessarily is sin because of its true suppressive exchange, contrary to God's design.

Truth about God's nature in design, created man and woman in the image of God. What they did was, they suppressed the truth. Nature of man is man and woman being in one flesh, they suppress the truth about themselves as God design and this leads to idolatry. If you live on idolatry, it is pleasing yourself basically. It is not just worshipping idols, is pleasing yourself, you become the center of the attention and you become sexual perversion and homosexuality is an example of a horizontal plane about rebelling against God of a of our vertical plane.

So homosexuality in general, not a specific type. So therefore, male or female will reflect the internal diversity and nature of God. Because the whole idea of the trinity, of three _____ create different roles and yet God, that is not totally lost. Only a woman could have completed the divine design for humankind. Because God said it's not good for man to be alone and it doesn't reflect companionship. It reflects diversity, complementarity and able to fulfill the divine mandate to populate the world and dominate the world. You can't do that with man and a man.

So he rewrites the Genesis 2 narrative on what is good. So here we have Genesis narrative on what is good. Everything is good, all designed and I remember last week we talked about, it is good because it fulfills God's design and purpose. And the only place where it is not good is man is alone. Man looks for all sorts of people to help him and finds none except a woman. Once a woman comes to the scene, then he says, it is good. What we are doing now with homosexuality is saying, God is stupid. They are saying God is stupid, God doesn't know what he is doing. He should have looked for another man. You know settle for woman too early, could have created a man.

So we are trying to rewrite the design. God designed you, now you rewrite the design. This is actually an assault on God's work. So reproduction is critical for human beings.

- So homosexuals do not find partners they find mirrors in one dimensional sexual clones of themselves
- Homosexuality is an attack on what it means to be human

- Homosexuality rebels against God's plan for an image bearer and for heterosexual marriage of complementary humans for the good of mankind.
- It rejects the nature of God
- It arises out of pride and arrogance and idolatry

That is the underlying problem with homosexuality, quite apart from all the other sins. That's why Bible writes against it. Now in those days, the only homosexuality, some people are saying, you know, it is pedophilia but Paul is not targeting that. Because he says women exchanged sexual relations with other women. And basically, adult women and children, pedophilia is actually unknown at that time. It's not about master-slave abuse because we know why, like men gave up natural relations with women, they were consumed with passion for one another. This means the slave is consumed with passion for master, come break me.

It's not true, isn't it? Cannot be. All right. So, not according to who practices or what motivation they seek. The whole idea is the same gender. When you have sexual relationship between the same gender, that is wrong, quite apart from whatever motivation; you fall in love, you didn't fall in love, whatever it is, it is wrong. All right. So the issue is natural. Now here's where we have an argument.

*For their women exchanged **natural** relations for those that are **contrary to nature**; 27 and the men likewise gave up **natural** relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another,*

So the LGBT people say, this is against my personal orientation. I am born to the similar sex with that boy. But if you look at, contrary to nature in Greek is para physin and it means homosexuality against nature. And the reason why is you go back, I mean, you can make the Bible say whatever you want to say now by reading today's beginning to back then, but 2000 years ago, homosexuality the word para physin means homosexuality, they understood it by Plato, Plato, Plutarch, Philo, and Josephus, all of them, and stoic philosophers, all of them understood this to be homosexuality at that time. Meaning contrary to nature, not actually contrary to nature means contrary to my sexual orientation. But you must interpret scripture in the light of when it was written. When it was written, when they used the para physin everybody understood it as homosexual relations.

Here's a famous Greek philosopher, Musonius Rufus who writes,

“But of all sexual relations those involving adultery are most unlawful, and no more tolerable are those of men with men, because it is a monstrous thing and contrary to nature.”

Men with men is a monstrous thing that actually happens. The entire Romans, they way it is written, alludes Genesis 1 similar style literature. What does Paul mean by nature? It must mean more than prevailing customs and social norms, is divine design. All right? So it says, contrary to nature, it's not, it's not a contrary to prevailing customs, it is actually against divine design. Anybody know what? A spoon. Yes of course it is a spoon. So you go and drink coffee tomorrow or soup, what's the problem if we use this as a spoon. No problem. Okay. All of go home and the only thing you're going to use is this spoon. What happen is that you will probably die. Why? The loban lah...so stupid, who is going to make a spoon with a loban in the middle, budoh people, only westerners will think of such things. If you actually notice that this is an olive spoon. The olive soaks in olive oil and when you take out the olive the whole is ___ you need the olive. It is an olive spoon.

How many of you have used an olive spoon before?

The idea is that it is created for something, isn't it? And human beings are designed for a specific thing, otherwise you look at the ____, it doesn't make any sense. Okay, so this is why, it is not good for men to be alone.

LGBT key distortions are;

- Out of the ordinary.
- It is against my personal orientation
- Adolescent voice
- Sexual expectation
- Excessive passion.

They are trying to distort it. In fact, they look at nature itself. They look at science and looked for gene that can identify, they have been looking for that for years to find a gene that will identify homosexuals and Dean Hammer actually looked at it and suggested there was a link between this particular gene, genetic marker Xq28 but that has already been debunked. The largest study in the world was just published August 29, 2019 and they find no single genetic cause of the same sexual behavior. Just looked at DNA sequences of half of million middle aged people between 2006 and 2010 from a big database and then looking at about 27,000 people where basically 5% of the subjects who have engaged in homosexual activity. They found that no single gene that accounts for more than 1% of person's sexuality. Environment plays a larger pot, sex is polygenic.

The most genetic factors can affect is only about 8-25% of same sexual behavior. So, you can't really say really that you're born gay and don't really have a choice, because that is really, really very small minority, scientific evidence doesn't support that.

The fact that Paul singles out homosexual relations as a conspicuous example of the human heart suppressing the truth and turning from God suggests that we must not down play this terrible rebellion.

Same sex orientation is not a disability. What is it? It's a sin. You can't say I'm born like this, I don't have a choice. Born deaf and born dumb and blind in my fault, whatever it is, we are accountable because of original sin passed down to us from Adam. It is part of our sinful nature. You cannot play any other way. All right. It is a kind of sin as it were. There are two more passages, 1-Corinthians 6 and 1-Timothy 6 and they are very clear.

- *1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (ESV) Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **men who practice homosexuality**, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

That is very clear.

- *1 Timothy 1:8-10 (ESV) Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 9 understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, 10 the sexually immoral, **men who practice homosexuality**,*

If you actually look at this, it doesn't talk about, some people say, oh that's not what Paul is talking

about. Paul is talking about a man with homosexual men which was common in those days. Prostitution or effeminate people. No, he didn't talk about that. Revisionists will say, you know, it is not talking about committed same sex relationship as we know today.

But all major translations translate these passages as men who practice homosexuality. So the word homosexuality is coined by Paul. Arsenokoitai which actually comes from Leviticus, and there's no other Greek words used like this prior to Paul, and if you look at 1-Timothy all the things that he says is described father, mother, murderers, sexually immoral people, you know all of that actually comes from the 10 commandments. It is actually from the 10 Commandments as it were. This is the background.

No Jew would have thought the 10 commandments allowed same sex relations, that is why they basically never mentioned it there anyway. Paul is not targeting this relationship, adult man with adolescent because there is a word in Greek called paiderastes. He could have used that word, but he doesn't use that word. Actual words used are basically 'Moichoi', which is adulterer, 'Arsenokoitai' is homosexual. And this what nor men who practice people sexuality is actually two words together. We don't know what model 'malakoi' means. It can be soft, yielding to touch, passive and the same sex relationship or soft or feminine, but because it appears between these two most likely has to do with some sexual sin as well.

Now I think we have covered Old Testament and New Testament. So today I am going to spend time practical. What are the objections to understand? How are we to apply what we have learned? Some people say the Bible hardly mentions homosexuality, which is ridiculous. All right? It is uncontroversial sin that is why people don't mention. You know, when you come to church, we will tell you where to park, do you think we have a rule that says you cannot come up to the altar and vomit or pee. Instead of a rule that says in FBC you can't come up here and piss on the table, so don't have rule doesn't mean you can do like this. So who wants to come and piss on the table? And if you piss on the table, would we all be clapping? We won't. It's actually stupid, because it is silent. The silence doesn't mean nothing wrong with it. It is so extreme there is actually silent from it. So it's also obviously egregious that is not really mentioned like bestiality. Like how many times you talk about men having sex with a goat. You don't see much of it because it is so extreme.

What about the specific condemnation that we have gone through? There are a lot of verses on the converse, which is actually marriage and most revisionist scholars admit the Bible is negative about homosexuality. Imagine if I wrote a book. This is a book that was published recently, No-Salt Cookbook. You can cook without salt. And then you go and complain, you know, inside the book _____, hey the author has nothing against salt. You know, why, the salt word is never mentioned. Because it is a no-salt cookbook that is why the word salt is not mentioned. The Bible from the beginning is heterosexual, right, so why would he write many words about homosexual relationships. I think the logic should not be lost on this.

This is Pim Pronk, another chap on homosexual. He writes,

wherever homosexual intercourse is mentioned in Scripture, it is condemned. . . . Rejection is a foregone conclusion; the assessment of it nowhere constitutes a problem."

Professor Diarmaid MacCollough is a professor of history of the church from Oxford University. He writes,

“This is an issue of biblical authority. Despite much well-intentioned theological fancy footwork to the contrary, it is difficult to see the Bible as expressing anything else but disapproval of homosexual activity, let alone having any conception of a homosexual identity. The only alternatives are either to try to cleave to patterns of life and assumptions set out in the Bible, or to say that in this, as in much else, the Bible is simply wrong” (The Reformation: A History [New York: Penguin, 2003], 705).

It is either the Bible is wrong or if you believe the Bible is right but you can't twist it to say what you've got to say. All right? There are about eight vices in the New Testament and most of them will have sexual immorality is them.

Jesus condemns homosexuality. He says in Matthew 19,

Matthew 19:4-6 (ESV) He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.

*Mark 7:21-23 (ESV) For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, **sexual immorality**, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”*

So some people say, the ancient world had no concept of sexual orientation, no understanding of the egalitarian, loving, committed, monogamous, covenantal same sex unions. This is only a recent invention. That means people in old days were simply having sex with everybody, they don't have committed homosexual relationships as we have today.

Now the problem is Jewish writings, all the Torah Jewish writing, because it's such a no-no, because the people of Israel were brought up in the law, isn't it? The Torah. You will not see any reference to homosexual activity, but in secular Greco-Roman literature you will see a wide range of homosexual relationship including loving, committed, lifelong homosexual. You think you are the only people who invented this, sin is invested right from the beginning. So you don't have a monopoly on sin.

So they actually, this is argument against the evidence. There is evidence of loving, committed, lifelong homosexual relationship not unlike that of Elton John, right? Right from the beginning there are. So these are the references, you want to look them up, all right.

As an argument from silence. Some people say

- Argument from silence is unconvincing
- Bible does not limit its objections to just pederasty or homosexual rape
- The prohibitions in Leviticus and Romans are explicit
- Cultural distance is an argument from distance

What do homosexuals do with the same sex attraction or desire? You talk to a homosexual person; they say I look at Pastor Joash and I am in love. So what do we do with that? Why is it wrong? If you are a Buddhist, very simple. All desire is evil. You love men or women, whatever it is, it is all evil.

God has desires.

- *Hosea 6:6 (ESV) For I **desire** steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*

This is Jesus

- *John 17:24 (ESV) Father, I **desire** that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*

God has desire. So if God has desire what is so wrong with us having desires. There is no problem with desire. Psalm 73

- *Psalms 73:25-26 (ESV) Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I **desire** besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

So desire is good. So, if you look at the Hebrew word 'Chamad' and 'Epithumias' in Greek, it is either translated as desire, lust or desire, now they are the same words. Only difference is the purpose and the action. Now the purpose, if it is a wrong goal it becomes lust. If it's a right goal, it becomes desire. For example,

- *Genesis 3:5 (ESV) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

When Eve saw the Durian, it was so lovely to smell, it was good for the eyes. In Genesis chapter 3, good for the eyes and desire to make one wise. That is motivation. So she actually wanted to be like God, deciding what is good and evil. So therefore if you look at the Durian on a good day with a right desire it is correct. If you eat the durian for the wrong thing, it become lust. So you actually go the restaurant and you just had your three pieces of Musang King and you are okay, because it is sweet, it is nice. That is good desire, godly desire, God made Musang King. If you go there and you whack 15 durian and you are like 150 kilos already with diabetic, I mean desire is desire, but that becomes lust. So therefore to understand that, for example, you look at another woman.

- *Matthew 5:27-28 (ESV) You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

You are walking with your wife and then some pretty woman comes and you want to take a look. You are already married and then you are looking at the other girl, what are your intentions. Actually the goal is very important. As being a man you will always get attracted to pretty woman, but as you allow that thing to take hold it becomes lust. So the purpose and goal is very-very important. This becomes sin.

So sexual does is not wrong. The question whether it aligns with God's will. So if your sexual desire is for another man, which this union will never be reciprocated nor fulfilled then it must be lust and it cannot be right. There is nothing wrong, even heterosexual people have, look at Song of Solomons,

- *Song of Songs 7:10 (ESV) I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me.*

I am so desirable, he wants me and then he says here.

- *Song of Songs 2:7 (ESV) I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.*

Don't tell the boy. Once you are married you can do whatever you want but before that, you see there is desire but you still go to control it. It becomes lust.

Again, so same sex purpose becomes lust and it is wrong because it doesn't align with God's will. So what do you do with attraction. Well Job says,

- *Job 31:1 (ESV) I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin*

So he made a covenant not to look at her. Desires are determined good or bad not based on their intensity but on their object. Appreciate the beauty but do not indulge in lustful thoughts. So whether you have homosexual attractions, your attraction to your neighbour when you are married, it is the same thing. You still have got to learn to control that kind of attraction.

Some people argue that grace covers everything – church supposed to be the place to get it. Why do you treat homosexual actual so badly? They say, as long as we believe in Christ, the sexual choices we make do not interrupt our relationship with Christ. Whether we make the choice to walk in God's ways or pursue something less than God's best for us, we are still saved by Christ and will spend eternity with Christ. No one's perfect. I can just carry on because of grace. But the trouble is if you look at the Bible. Lifelong repentance is normative for disciples. It always calls you to repent. Luke 13

- *Luke 13:5 (ESV) No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."*

Here is Ezekiel

- *Ezekiel 18:30-32 (ESV) Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live."*

So as a Christian it's a repentant lifestyle. All right, so regret is common, repentance is rare. The Greek word is 'metanoia', change of mind that leads to change of life. Change of mind means you think you agree that you are a sinner and you have sinned against God. Change your mind about your sin. Your sin is egregious. It's a painful, horrible thing. Most gays don't think being gay is simple. They haven't changed their minds. That's the problem. All right.

Change your mind about God. He is trust worthy, I owe Jesus my life, He is able to forgive, I can trust His word, He is the boss of my life.

So basically you are going to change your life in every aspect and as you change God will transform your life and this grace is not cheap. In fact, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes,

Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Then some people say, God is love. That is true, God is love. But if you look at this article from Australian newspaper I came across a couple of weeks ago, she was fired from Ballarat Christian College because she is a teacher there and she taught them that same sex marriage has the same potential as heterosexual marriage to be reflection of God's love, which means she puts love front and center and as long as you are in any marital relationship, whether it is heterosexual or homosexual, as long as you love it is okay. Love conquers it all. She writes,

“Now I see it is a God given opportunity to stand up for what is right to represent what God is really about: Loving others”

“They were created as they are in the image of God and that they are fully loved by God and share equal dignity with all other humans

You know, the biggest lies are the ones would be the truth. Do you know? She's not saying anything wrong there. We are all created in the image of God, homosexual and heterosexuals. We are fully loved by God and share equal dignity with all other humans. There is nothing wrong. But she's also say, “...to stand up for what is right to represent what God is really about: Loving others”

What is about loving others? Here the issue is design. The love is placed in the wrong kind of box, which is about same sex marriage that is why she got fired. So unconditional love is not unconditional approval. You can be a parent and love your children unconditionally, but you don't have the right of unconditional approval. That's the issue.

Issues are at stake. If you think it is a small matter, it is not. The fallacy that we are allowed any sexual behavior as long as it is love opens the door to incest, polygamy, bestiality. Because if you look at Leviticus 20, once you start with a sex with your neighbor, family member, family member of a younger generation, with another man, more than one partner, animal goes on and it goes on and it goes on. Because if you can say, I can have sex with another man that I can have with anybody and then you love your dog you can take it too. You tell me what is wrong. It's you and your dog. You're not spreading any disease. So what's wrong with that? So once you are removing that and what is the problem there, the problem is actually the belief in God. If I believe in God that means God has a design. If I believe in God there is a design and this is God's design, and the Bible gives it design.

The moment you say, there is no design then once you break that barrier of a committed relationship with another women, whether it starts off with divorce and then it goes to homosexuality then it goes to polygamy, then it goes to incest, now the big trend now is a father and daughter checking up together because both are consenting adults. Then you tell me what's wrong with all the rest. As long as there is no God, all bets are off. You can have any sexual relationship and if you follow the laws of the land they should not ban you, they should not put you to jail, because it is logical. If there is no God, you can do whatever the heck you want, but if there is a God then there is a design then we are actually limited by that.

Now look at the data. The data shows us that if we follow what society says, it'll go downhill.

Percent who “agree” or “strongly agree” that:	Churchgoing Christians who <i>oppose</i> SSM	Churchgoing Christians who <i>support</i> SSM	Population Average	Gay and Lesbian Christians	Gay and Lesbian non-Christians
Viewing pornography is OK	4.6	33.4	31.4	57.0	78.1
Premarital cohabitation is good	10.9	37.2	43.0	49.7	74.1
No-strings-attached sex is OK	5.1	33.0	35.0	49.0	80.5
Couples with kids should stay married except if abused	52.2	33.5	26.9	22.9	18.5
Marital infidelity is sometimes OK	1.3	7.5	7.5	14.2	26.9
It is OK for 3+ adults to live in a sexual relationship	1.2	15.5	16.3	31.9	57.8
I support abortion rights	6.5	39.1	37.8	57.5	71.7
Sample Size:	2,659	990	15,738	191	233

Can you see the data? The data shows you once you break that domino everything else goes. That's why this is a battle we cannot lose. So, the integrity of the sexual ethics is at stake. Authority of the Word is at stake and grand narrative of the Bible is at stake.

Gary Dorrien, a professor of Religion at Columbia University writes,

Specifically, liberal theology is defined by its openness to the verdicts of modern intellectual inquiry, especially the natural and social sciences; its commitment to the authority of individual reason and experience; its conception of Christianity as an ethical way of life; its favouring of moral concepts of atonement; and its commitment to make Christianity credible and socially relevant to modern people

Is it more liberal? Christianity is always making religion more user friendly. Experience is number one. Christianity teaches you to be a good person, ethical way of life. Okay? Make it credible. So this is liberal Christianity.

Christians are to blame. Matthew Vines writes,

The church’s rejection of same-sex relationships is “harmful to the long-term well-being of most gay people” and that for some this rejection “fuels despair to the point of suicide.”...the teaching that same-sex desire and behavior are sinful produces “bad fruit.”

So now our friend uses Bible. He says when you say same sex marriage is sinful, it causes people suicide. So therefore suicide is a fruit isn't it. So therefore your teaching must be wrong.

“If something bears bad fruit, it cannot be a good tree. And if something bears good fruit, it cannot be a bad tree.”

Implications: church doctrines and teachings are essentially measured by whether they produce “good fruit” or “bad fruit.”

He is a very clever fellow. He went to Harvard but didn't pass and was kicked out. Look at the passage here.

- *Matthew 7:15-20 (ESV) Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.*

So basically he is taking from this passage, which is not wrong. But if you actually look at the word in Greek, the word 'Kakos' is basically harmful, painful or unpleasant or 'poneros' which is evil and the word used in this passage is actually poneros, which is actually morally evil. It is like you take a bad Musang King, you get diarrhea, it becomes Kakos. Musang King cannot be poneros because it cannot be evil. So basically that's the wrong word.

Now, the other thing is that if you look at it, bear fruit. This is chapter three, which is same thing Jesus speaks speaking, it says, Jesus refers Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

What is the fruit? The fruit is a lifestyle consistent of repentance. There is another passage in Matthew 7 that says,

- *Matthew 7:15-20 (ESV) Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits.*

That means their life is not full of repentance. So this is again wrong passage being taken.

If you look at homosexuals. Homosexuals are eight times more likely to have committed suicide, six times more likely to have high levels of depression, three times more likely to use illicit drugs, three times more likely to be at risk for HIV and STD. And these are all LGBTQ young people rejected by their parents. Note the data says, not rejected by their church. It is rejected by their parents. This is a serious important question.

If you look at the Netherlands, it is a first country in Europe to approve same-sex marriage in 2001. In 2015 they did a survey and found 91% of people in Netherlands believe same sex marriage should be allowed throughout Europe – is the highest percentage of any EU country.

So you go in Netherlands, if you in are homosexual relationship they will say good on you. And yet homosexual men had a higher risk for suicide than heterosexual man. In the most liberal country in Europe, homosexual men are after killing themselves, still getting depressed. So you can't blame the Christian ethic.

I'm going to end in a minute or two and open up the debate.

Will I go to hell because I am gay? Anybody try to answer that question? What do you think you're a gay, you will go to hell. I think we had that in the poll. How many said yes, I won't kill you if you say yes.

Let me ask you a question, will I go to heaven because I am straight (heterosexual)?

You are not going to go to heaven because you are heterosexual neither you are going to hell because you are homosexual. You know, why you go to hell, because you don't believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior. The biggest sin is unbelief. That is the main problem.

The churches approach to the LGBTQ community. You need to be pastorally sensitive. The person already feels like a failure, don't compound to that. The desire to walk in holiness is actually the evidence of the Spirit's work in him and Jesus as sympathetic high priest. So you have somebody who is struggling. The reason he struggles is actually because he actually believes that what he is doing is wrong. So you go and tell him, it is wrong. I mean, let's say for example, your son come up to you, pa I got great news for you today. I am gay. What are you going to do? You think you will sit down and say okay, let's look at Leviticus 18, Paul says arsenokotai, you will be stupid to do that because you think that fellow doesn't know.

There is an internal witness on his conscious. He already knows that is going to happen. I think what we should do is focus them on Holy sexuality, not heterosexuality. You have a got a lot of gay conversion therapy, you know by Christians even. I remember our old professor in New South Wales University when I was studying there. That was in 1970s or early 80s. He used to have this machine, it is like a condom. It wraps around your penis. Then he shows you a picture of a woman, right? It was a woman with scantily clad, and then if you have an erection good on you. Then he shows a picture of men, if you got erection you will get electric shock. So by doing this, it's called gay conversion therapy. And then there are certain drugs they can inject you when you are going to see a woman, the pleasurable sensation, you are happy. You see a man pleasurable, they inject then you feel nauseated and vomit.

So every time you see another man you vomit. In fact, there was an experiment once where they actually took the testicles of a heterosexual male and transplanted to the scrotum of a homosexual men. So that his testosterone is different, obviously that failed. We doctors are damn stupid.

The whole thing is that, the focus should be singles and married. So if you're single, whether you're heterosexual or homosexual. If you are single you are heterosexual, you cannot hit on every woman in church also. You have your feelings, but you keep them under control. And basically Paul says singleness is actually a gift. I think I also misunderstood the gift. I always thought that God gives you a gift of singleness. Like see the girl and have no feeling. I used to have a friend in Taiping, he doesn't seem to have any interest in girls, so I thought God gave him the gift of being single. No I don't think that, I do not believe that anymore. Everybody here is going to be single at some stage in their lives, usually the beginning and the end, unless you die together, which is very unlikely. But at some stage you will get single, whether at the beginning or the end, but it is how you use your singleness to glorify God.

You see, if I have a gift, it must feel good. Just because you have a gift, doesn't mean you feel good. We have equated or feelings to the thing, so it must feel it must be right. If I'm struggling with homosexual feelings on a person, then I don't have the gift, I must go and express it. I'm single and I am burning with desire, quickly marry. No the singleness is an opportunity for you to use that for

the glory of God. That is how it is. It is basically focusing on chastity for singles and for marriage it is not a piece of cake, you have to stay married, you have to be faithful with your wife, just because you walk past another woman who is very sexually attractive, doesn't mean you are blind, you didn't cut off your testicles. You are still man; you will still feel something. We all go through all this, so the whole idea is holy sexuality. It is not about your focus, I got to have normal feelings towards the woman and then therefore I am okay.

The other issue is that if you look at 1-Peter that we studied before.

- *1 Peter 2:9-10 (ESV) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

So here the whole idea of being people of God is that you used to be in darkness and sin and now he has called you into his marvelous light. That is what we are.

- *1 Peter 2:11-12 (ESV) Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

So basically live out your calling Christopher Yuan writes,

When I saw that Bible in the prison trash can, I wouldn't have picked it up if I hadn't seen the Bible lived out in my father's and mother's lives. I didn't leave pursuing a same-sex relationship because my parents convinced me it was sinful. I didn't leave it because they convinced me it was unhealthy. I left it because I was shown something better – and his name is Jesus.

You see go and tell your son and you neighbor that you are wrong is not necessarily for their help. Living a life in love with Jesus Christ, walking with that kind of love and integrity is going to be a witness to a group of people who already feel they are wrong.

As such, I do not put my identity in my sexuality. My identity is not gay, ex-gay, or even heterosexual for that matter. As one who is united with Christ, I do not identify with my same-sex sexual and romantic desires that are a result of the Fall. These desires are not neutral or sanctifiable but arise from my sin nature—and therefore must be put to death every day.

Whether you're single and homosexual or single and heterosexual or married and heterosexual, , you have desires which are contrary to what the Word says and life being a Christian is, Jesus calls you to do what? Take up your cross. So if a non-Christian or a homosexual person comes in, I can't, I can't live and burn with my lust, I mean there are single people who have got heterosexual feelings, they are no different from you at all.

Always remember, if you got gay children that the main concern is not your son or daughter's sexuality or same sex relationship. As I said earlier, my biggest sin wasn't same-sex sexual behavior; my biggest sin was unbelief.

What we should do with the gay community. You said as a church, the first thing we need to do, they

know you condemn them. Do we have to go and read them the writing in Leviticus 18. We each as a church should love them. See, homosexual sin is an abomination. You know what else is an abomination in the Old Testament? Pride, greed, all of them. So, if we want to throw out LGBTQ people from our church, we better throw out all those who are greedy. This is no different from any other sins and the church of Jesus Christ is a place where you actually find love. The only different is that you are not LGBT so therefore you are a little bit better than them. You're only greedy.

Homosexuals are only like some difference you know, and so therefore you belong to church, but they don't belong to the church. You see? That's the problem. We put them all on different planes and so therefore we use it to justify ourselves. So, we say LGBT fellow come and we hate them. we don't want to love them, the first thing we do is condemn them. We should treat LGBT people no difference from any non-Christian who we love. I mean we actually have Unforgettable. Did you know that in Unforgettable we actually have some white Christians playing the singing also. Imagine when a non-Christian fellow their playing, my God they will scalp me in the church, but what difference is an LGBT guy doing there compared to a sinful non-Christian. No difference at all. We should love them all and pray that they come to know Jesus Christ.

When they come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior, when the gospel transforms them then naturally they will change their desires towards righteous behavior towards what God meant for them. So when you have non-Christian friends who are LGBTQ, do not treat them any different. Treat them in fact with more love because they feel ashamed if you ostracize.

The other caveat is that the only problem with LGBT people is that politically they got problem, they justify their sin. That's the part that we have to go against. Have you ever had a situation when a man is having adultery and he say adultery is good, come to church and tell everyone it is okay. No he will hide it because he realize it's a sin. LGBT people, they don't hide it, the flesh it out. That is the problem. I may love you unconditionally, but I will never approve it and would never teach in my school and you will never say that is acceptable. I will love you but I don't have to agree with you.

But I don't have to put my disagreement straight up. The moment you love a person, you see non-Christians people come to our church. A lot of things they do we don't agree but do you sit down and talk shop and tell them all their sins they have, we don't. We talk to them about believing in Christ. Now when they believe in Christ all of a sudden things will fall into place as it were.

Any questions on this very important topic. It must be handled just nicely, otherwise, we have been accused of being so homophobic or the other half of the church we are so accommodating that we agree with them. So somewhere in the middle we've got to find that ground.

Question: _____

Have you ever seen a non-Christian serve as a church leader? No. If you see a non-Christian play the piano in terms of Unforgettable because it was more or less secular things, same. So I think you put LGBT people with greedy people or sinner people.

Now what about Christians who are gay. There are Christians who are gay. It is not being compatible, Christians who are greedy, have you seen any. Christians who are lazy or not, got. So, Christian also in the same line.

Now if a Christian doesn't wear a dress and come to church, this is totally wrong. While if a non-

Christian comes like that, I have no problem. But if you are Christian then that is a different story because 1-Cor chapter 5 has immorality, remember a man has his father's wife. So if you are unrepentant and you are a Christian, you as Christian struggling with sin is okay, we pray for you, we lay hands on you, we do all sorts of things, give you electric shocks (joking). But if you are a Christian, we will have to get you to change as it were because it helps you grow. It is just like you are greedy, you have to help me change. So go on the same process, like any other person.

So any other questions? Long session. So after this, that would be three sessions on worship and then Arnold will come in and do the session.