

SO MANY QUESTIONS

Question 9: Why is the Bible “anti-gay”?

Think about it

1. What kind of question is this?
 - a. Knowing (needing evidence)
 - b. Meaning (knowing what ‘the truth’ about God is)
 - c. Living (moral issues / how we ought to live)

2. What are some of the reasons someone might have for asking this question?

3. How would you go about answering this question? Jot down the kinds of things you think could be included in an answer.

Summarize your answer

In your own words, using three or four simple points, write down how you would answer the question “Why is the Bible ‘anti-gay’?”

Do not turn page over until after you complete this side! 😊

For further thought:

Why is the Bible “anti-gay”?

- We used to live in a society that would say, “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it”. Today, saying “I disagree with you” is often taken to mean that I am intent on doing you physical violence, and saying “I love you” is often taken to mean “I agree with everything you have to say”. But reality is more complex than that.
- Both the Old and New Testaments are clear and unambiguous: sexual activity between a man and a man, or between a woman and a woman, is wrong.
- This is not just some arbitrary rule. The rule is there because God planned sex for a marriage relationship—that is, a lifelong union between a man and a woman. The purpose of this good gift within marriage is for the husband and the wife to bond to one another, to enjoy each other and to give to one another. Sex is also the way that God has chosen to bring children into the world: he wants them to be born in the context of committed and loving relationships.
- That is why the Bible is against any form of sex outside of marriage—heterosexual *and* homosexual. The Bible is not anti-gay. Homosexual activity is no better or worse than any other sin; it is just one of the many ways every single person in our world says “no” to God. The solution we all need is Jesus’ death on the cross for us.

Other approaches

- Are some sexual practices wrong? For instance, do you think that paedophilia is a natural and right way to behave? How, then, do we make a judgement about any particular sexual practice? By majority opinion? If that were so, the earth was flat in the 16th century, Hitler was right in late 1930s Germany, and homosexuality was wrong about 20 years ago. In the end, only the Creator of the world has the right (and the wisdom) to declare something right or wrong. Only he has the authority, and only he has the complete picture. If we accept who Jesus is (thereby accepting God’s authority over the world), we must listen to him and he clearly says that engaging in homosexual practice is not the way he created us to behave. It goes against the created order. Even so, Christians don’t hate homosexuals. We want to be kind and accepting of them. We want to help them work through their struggles.

Further reading

- Michael Hill, *The How and Why of Love: An Introduction to Evangelical Ethics*, Matthias Media, Sydney, 2002, chapters 9 and 11.
- Christopher Keane (ed.) *What Some of You Were: Stories about Christians and homosexuality*, Matthias Media, Sydney, 2001.
- Thomas E. Schmidt, *Straight & Narrow? Compassion & Clarity in the Homosexuality Debate*, IVP, Downers Grove, 1995.