

**HOMOSEXUALITY,
STRUGGLES,
AND THE GOSPEL**

HOMOSEXUALITY, STRUGGLES, AND THE GOSPEL

Why Is the Discussion Important?

1. The culture is an evangelist
2. We need to learn how to build a structure to welcome the gay community

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Historical Structure

Being gay and dealing with shame

Romans 1 and 8

1. Glory in it
2. Depression

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The Holy Scriptures

GENESIS 1:27–28: ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

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GENESIS 2:18, 21–25: ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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LEVITICUS 18:22: You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

LEVITICUS 20:13: If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

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MATTHEW 19:4–6: ⁴ 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.”

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GENESIS 19:4–7: ⁴ But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house.

⁵ And they called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them.” ⁶ Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, ⁷ and said, “I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly.

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JUDGES 19: 22-23: ²² As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, worthless fellows, surrounded the house, beating on the door. And they said to the old man, the master of the house, “Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him.” ²³ And the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, “No, my brothers, do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not do this vile thing.

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1 CORINTHIANS 6:9–11: ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. 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.

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The Result of Commands against this Historical Backdrop

1. Homosexuals' goals should be heterosexuality
2. They are damaged goods
3. To obey is to live a life that pales in comparison to others
4. Shame upon Shame

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Recovering a Redemptive Response to Struggles

2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10: I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³ And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵ On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses—

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2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10: ⁶ though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

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2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10: Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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PAUL'S STRUGGLE

1. Kept him humble (v. 7)
2. Was in the Flesh, and harassed him (v. 7)
3. He begged not to have it (v. 8)
4. It was continuous (v. 8)

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GOD'S RESPONSE

1. His Grace is sufficient for us (V.9)
2. His power is made perfect in our weakness (V.9)

A PLEA: *the gospel centered goal is worship seen in us choosing holiness which a key indicator:*

1. Contentment
2. Liking His strength in your weakness

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What is Life **TOGETHER**

1. We can't fix broken people
2. Show an environment where everyone has a thorn and is trusting Christ.

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Recap

1. Historically Homosexuals have...

Hid from brokenness or glory in it

2. Homosexuals' perception of Christians is that we are a danger to their identity

3. Christians should aim to provide a redemptive conversation:

Reclaiming our identity in Christ

- We are all broken
- Our goal is Christ/holiness
- Can't change people
- His grace is enough

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