

Message Notes

Holy Sex and Same Sex Attraction

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - "Mistakes..."

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

Is it sinful?

Leviticus 18:22

Leviticus 11:10-11

Romans 1:18-32

Isaiah 44:13-20 (esp 19-20)

What's the answer to sin?

Romans 3:19-21

Is same-sex temptation sin?

Hebrews 4:15-16

What is a Christian's identity?

1 Corinthians 6:7-13

Take Aways:

1. Sin is defined as exchanging Creator for Creation
2. EVERYONE has sinned. All of us have a fallen, broken sexuality!
3. Homosexual behavior is not God's design, is unnatural in the sense that it ignores the "otherness" that God is trying to communicate in the gift of sex.
4. Homosexual behavior is no worse (or better) than any other sexual sin.
5. Homosexual temptation is no worse (or better) than any other temptation, and in itself is not sinful
6. For the Heterosexual and the Homosexual, the answer is exactly the same - Grace through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
7. Our identity as Christians is not in our sexual orientation (Gay or Straight), but in being washed by Jesus Christ

What about Gay Marriage?

What are the messages we hear...

in culture?

through the Gospel message?

Can a person change sexual orientation?

Hope for the Christian struggling with SSA

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Gospel Application - "No room for the 'yuck' factor"

Romans 1:18-32

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

²⁸Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

For More Study:

Mark Yarhouse - *Homosexuality and the Christian: A Guide for Parents, Pastors, and Friends*
Wesley Hill - *Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality*
Rosaria Champagne Butterfield - *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: an English professor's journey into Christian faith*

Christopher Yuan Hope CC lectures (Oct 2016)

- <https://hopecc.onthecity.org/groups/4656/topics/2768775> (or search 'inside groups' for "Holy Sexuality Seminar videos") (or search 'inside groups' on the Hope City Page for "Holy Sexuality Seminar videos")



MEETINGS

NONE OF US IS AS DUMB AS ALL OF US.



TRADITION

JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE IT THAT WAY
DOESN'T MEAN IT'S NOT INCREDIBLY STUPID.

© DESPAIR.COM



MISTAKES

IT COULD BE THAT THE PURPOSE OF YOUR LIFE IS
ONLY TO SERVE AS A WARNING TO OTHERS.

HOLY SEX

it's just

SEX

The Difficult Ride of the Christian Life



Legalism

Slippery Slope

License



religion



What “religion” is screaming to us:

1. Just don't have sex.

2. If you're having sex, S-T-O-P. New word: I-T.

3. Parent/pastor: Because I said so.

4. I'm okay because I don't struggle with _____.

5. Worship your purity.

6. To be a Christian means you do *this*, not *that*.

irreligion



What the boombox is screaming to us:

1. Sex is bad and dirty
2. Sex is everything (need to be getting a lot!)
3. What's the big deal?
4. Sex = Intimacy
5. We joke about sex, but don't talk about it
6. Sex defines me

legalism
religion

GOSPEL

relativism
irreligion

Gospel Sexuality

God created sex
to be received as a gift
and experienced at his direction
for ever-increasing intimacy and benefit.

**AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF HIS
RELATIONSHIP WITH US**

A person is sitting on wooden steps, wearing blue jeans and silver flat shoes. The person's hands are resting on their knees. The background is a blurred outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**IF GOD LOVES ME
WHY AM I NOT
MARRIED?**

This week's Big Question:

**Holy Sex and Same-Sex
Attraction/Marriage**

Navigating a confusing road



Vote YES



Marriage =

One Man + One Woman



MINNESOTA
FOR MARRIAGE

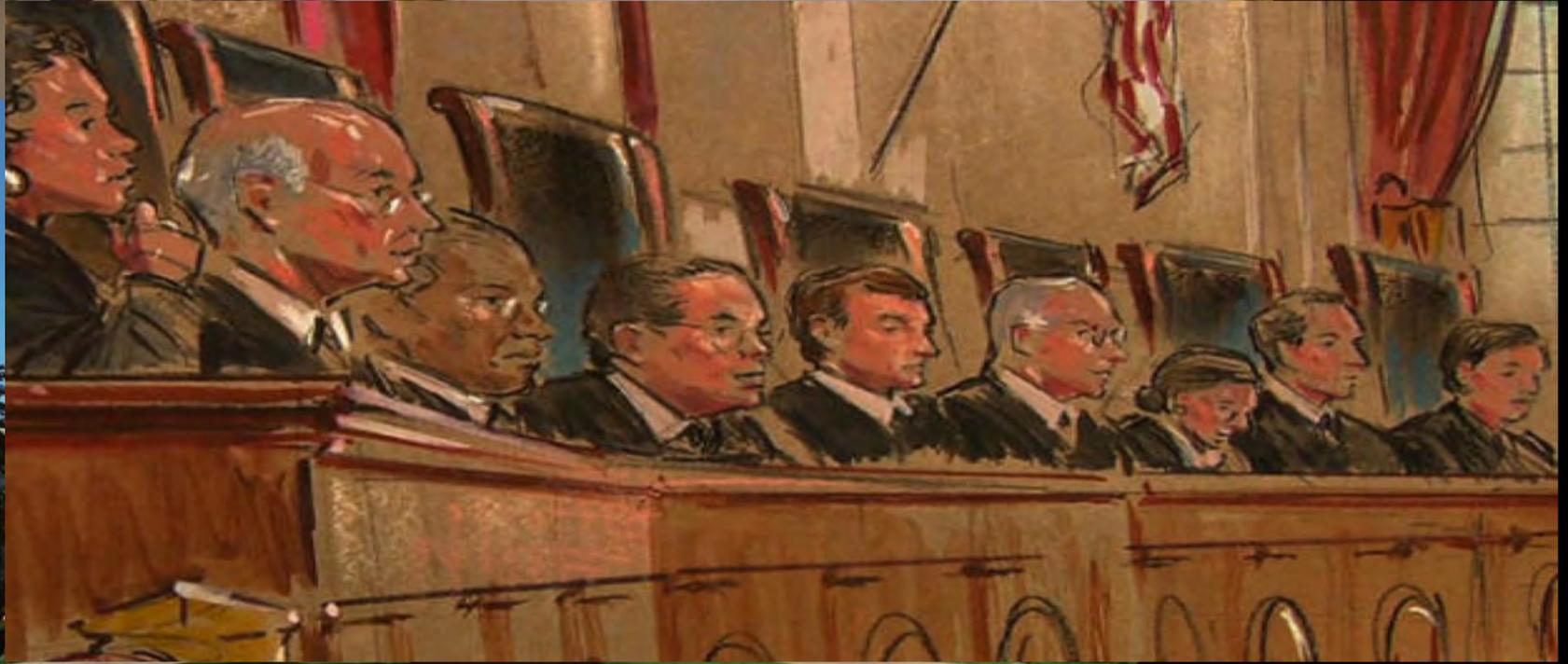
ONE MAN, ONE WOMAN
WWW.MINNESOTAFORMARRIAGE.COM

WWW.MINNESOTAFORMARRIAGE.COM

P.O. Box 301, Roseville, MN 55113, in support of Minnesota Marriage Protection







YES





CHURCH ST

STATE AVE



The Story

Creation

Fall

Redemption

Restoration

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

What about Gay Marriage?

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

What about Gay Marriage?

What are the messages we hear?

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

What about Gay Marriage?

What are the messages we hear?

Can a person change sexual orientation?

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

What about Gay Marriage?

What are the messages we hear?

Can a person change sexual orientation?

Is there any hope for the Christian who
has same-sex attraction?

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

Is it a sin?

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

Is it a sin?

Leviticus 18:22

Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman;
that is detestable.

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

Is it a sin?

Leviticus 11:10-11

¹⁰But all creatures in the seas or streams that do not have fins and scales – whether among all the swarming things or among all the other living creatures in the water – you are to detest. ¹¹And since you are to detest them, you must not eat their meat and you must detest their carcasses. ¹²Anything living in the water that does not have fins and scales is to be detestable to you.



Red Lobster

®

is

SIN!

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

Is it a sin?

Romans 1:18-32

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

Is it a sin?

Romans 1:18-32

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

The real problem - idolatry

The real problem – idolatry

Isaiah 44:13-20



The real problem - idolatry

Isaiah 44:13-20 (esp. 19-20)

¹⁹“No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, “Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?” ²⁰He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, “Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?””

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

Is it a sin?

Romans 1:18-32

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Amen.

The Best Definition of Sin in Scripture

Romans 1:18-32

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen.



What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

Is it a sin?

Romans 1:18-32

²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

Is it a sin?

Romans 1:18-32

²⁸Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

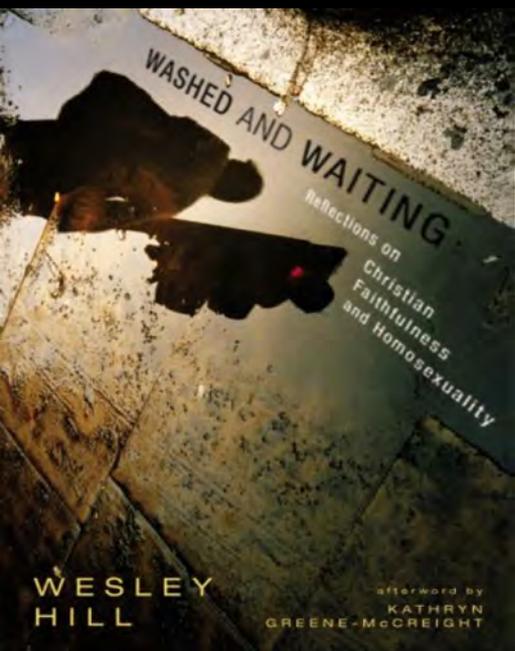
²⁹They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice.

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

Is it a sin?

Romans 1:18-32

They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.





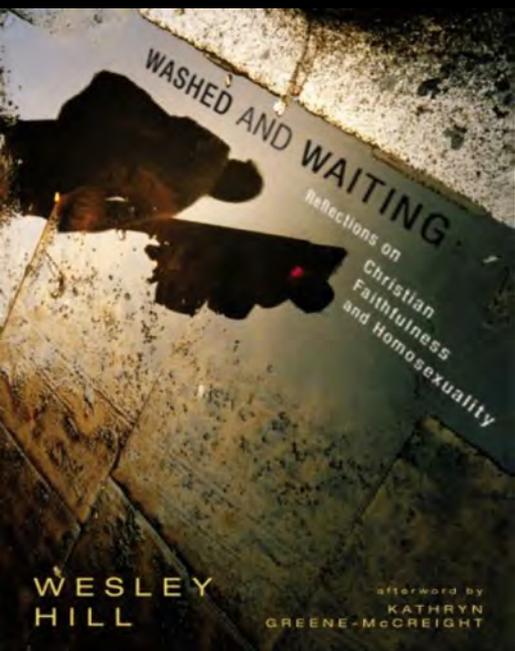
“According to the christological meaning of Genesis 2:24 given in Ephesians 5:32, the difference between male and female becomes not incidental to the meaning of marriage but essential. God established marriage, Ephesians suggests, in order that it might be a sign (*mysterion; sacramentum*) of Christ’s love for the Church.



“In order for this parable to “work,” the *difference* between the covenant partners is required. The relationship between man and woman is here “related over and above itself to an eternal, holy, and spotless standing before God, in the love of the incarnate Christ for his bride, which is the Church” ... Or, to borrow Karl Barth’s language, marriage is a *parable*, and for the parable to communicate its truth effectively requires certain kinds of characters, certain kinds of *bodies*, and not others.



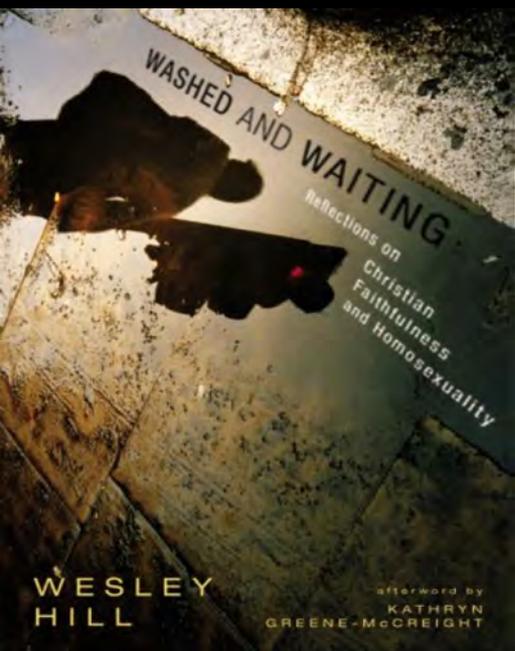
“This focus on gender difference – rather than the alleged presence of “exploitation” or an “excess of desire” in homosexual unions – would then explain Paul’s denunciation of same-sex erotic behavior in Romans 1:26-27. In their near locale, Paul’s descriptions of homosexuality link it to humanity’s turn away from the Creator to images of their fellow creatures. Difference is exchanged for sameness.



“As Simon Gathercole has written, “The key correspondence [between idolatry on the one hand and homosexual behavior on the other] lies in the fact that *both involve turning away from the ‘other’ to the ‘same’* ... *Humanity* should be oriented toward *God* but turns in on itself (Rom. 1.25). *Woman* should be oriented toward *man*, but turns in on itself (Rom. 1.26). *Man* should be oriented toward *woman*, but turns in on itself (Rom. 1.27)”



“The communion of the “wholly other” God with his creation, which was mirrored in man’s turning toward woman and vice versa, breaks down in homosexual relationships, and thus the christological meaning of marriage and gender difference is obscured.”



~ Wesley Hill in an article from *First Things* - “On Reading James Brownson” found online at:

<http://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2013/06/10/on-reading-james-brownson/>

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

What's the answer to sin?

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

What's the answer to sin?

Romans 3:19-21

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

What's the answer to sin?

Romans 3:19-21

²¹But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

Is same-sex temptation sin?

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

Is same-sex temptation sin?

Hebrews 4:15-16

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?
What is a Christian's identity?

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality? *What is a Christian's identity?*

1 Corinthians 6:7-11

⁷The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? ⁸Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

What is a Christian's identity?

1 Corinthians 6:7-11

⁹Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ¹⁰nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And that is what some of you were. 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.

Take Aways:

Take Aways:

1. Sin is defined as exchanging Creator for Creation

Take Aways:

1. Sin is defined as exchanging Creator for Creation
2. EVERYONE has sinned. All of us have a fallen, broken sexuality!

Take Aways:

1. Sin is defined as exchanging Creator for Creation
2. EVERYONE has sinned. All of us have a fallen, broken sexuality!
3. Homosexual behavior is not God's design, is unnatural in the sense that it ignores the "otherness" that God is trying to communicate in the gift of sex.

Take Aways:

1. Sin is defined as exchanging Creator for Creation
2. EVERYONE has sinned. All of us have a fallen, broken sexuality!
3. Homosexual behavior is not God's design, is unnatural in the sense that it ignores the "otherness" that God is trying to communicate in the gift of sex.
4. Homosexual behavior is no worse (or better) than any other sexual sin.

Take Aways:

5. Homosexual temptation is no worse (or better) than any other temptation, and in itself is not sinful.

Take Aways:

5. Homosexual temptation is no worse (or better) than any other temptation, and in itself is not sinful.
6. For the Heterosexual and the Homosexual, the answer is exactly the same – Grace through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Take Aways:

5. Homosexual temptation is no worse (or better) than any other temptation, and in itself is not sinful
6. For the Heterosexual and the Homosexual, the answer is exactly the same – Grace through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
7. Our identity as Christians is not in our sexual orientation (Gay or Straight), but in being washed by Jesus Christ

What about Gay Marriage?

What about Gay Marriage?

What is Christian Marriage?

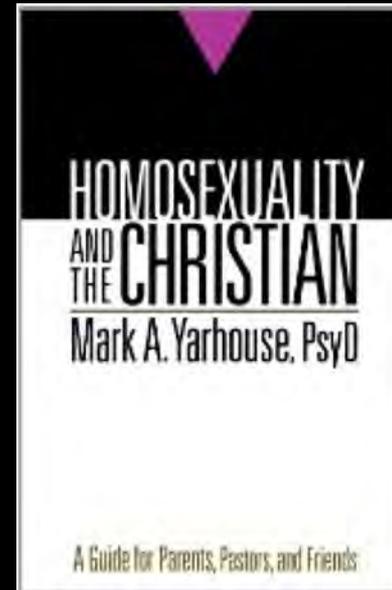
Hope Community Church believes that Christian marriage is a joyful covenanting between a man and a woman in which they proclaim, before God and human witnesses, their commitment to live together in spiritual, physical, and material unity. In this covenant they acknowledge that the great love God has shown for each of them enables them to love each other. We believe that the wedding ceremony is the place where this promise of a lifelong covenant between husband and wife is made and in which the two become one flesh, as it is both an ordinance of Creation, affirmed as such by our Lord, and commended by Saint Paul as a sign of the mystical union between Christ and His Church (Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:22-32).

Two kinds of messages

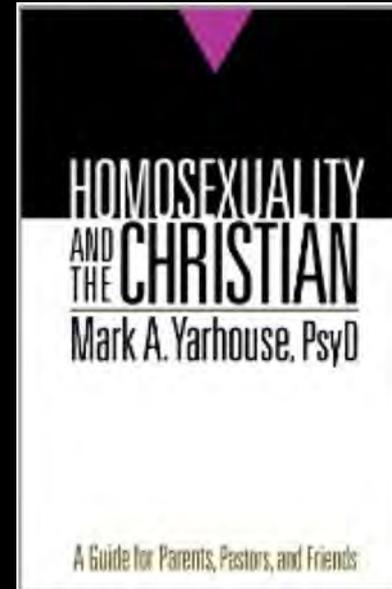
Two kinds of messages

The way the culture presents the “script”

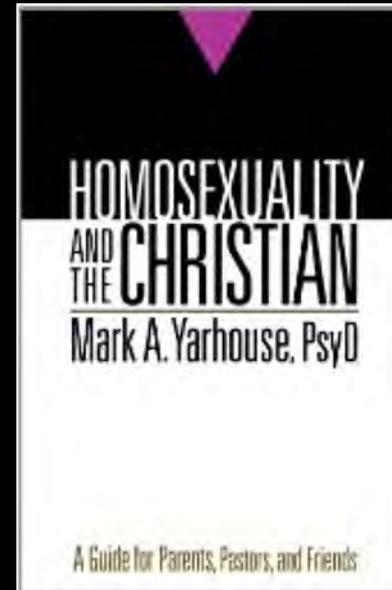
“Let’s imagine a sixteen-year-old named Chris. He experiences same-sex attraction and is looking for resources to inform him about who he is and what his experiences are all about. Let’s imagine that Chris is like an actor on a stage. He is looking for instructions or guidance on how to relate to the audience. Chris is looking for a script. When it comes to treating the experience of same-sex attractions as one and the same as having a gay identity, much of the gay community is ready to hand Chris a “gay” script. Here’s what I think this script looks like:



- Same-sex attractions signal a naturally occurring or “intended by God” distinction between homosexuality, heterosexuality, and bisexuality.
- Same-sex attractions are the way you know who you “really are” as a person (emphasis on discovery).
- Same-sex attractions are at the core of who you are as a person.
- Same-sex behavior is an extension of that core. Self-actualization (behavior that matches who you “really are”) of your sexual identity is crucial for your fulfillment.

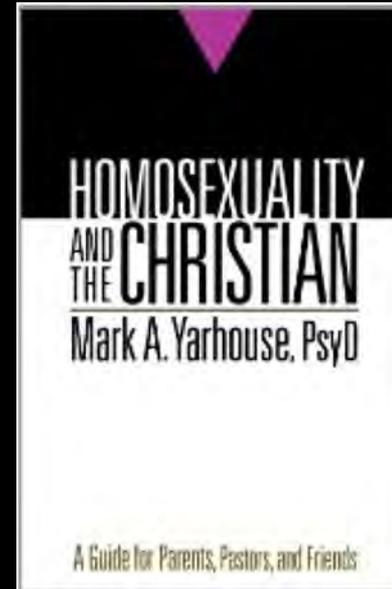


“This is a compelling script. The confusing attractions that Chris experiences are seen as natural and intended and blessed by God, placing a great emphasis on the sexual diversity seen in nature. They give way to discovery. They allow Chris to learn about who he really is. The attractions are central to his sense of himself as a person. This script tells Chris that no one can question or judge his behavior because same-sex behavior is merely an expression of his central identity.”



“Finally, in our culture today, a culture that emphasizes “self-actualization” (realization of a person’s potential) and is saturated in messages about the pleasures of sex, Chris receives the message that he has every right to act according to his sexual identity.”

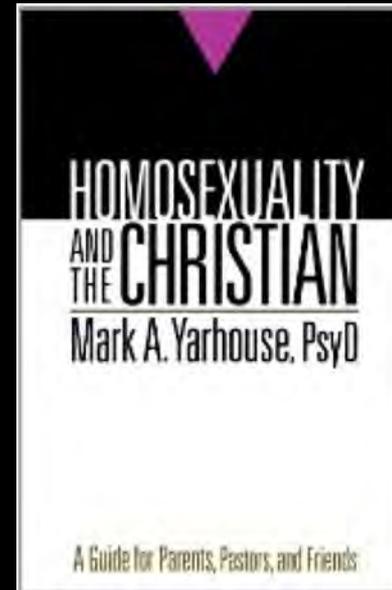
~ Mark A. Yarhouse, Homosexuality and the Christian: A Guide for Parents, Pastors, and Friends (pp. 48-49). Baker Publishing Group.



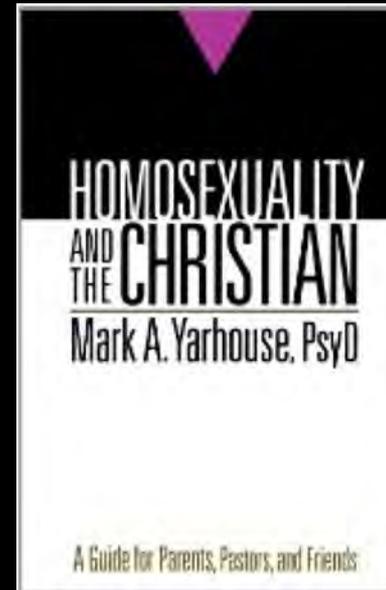
Two kinds of messages

The way Christianity presents the “script”

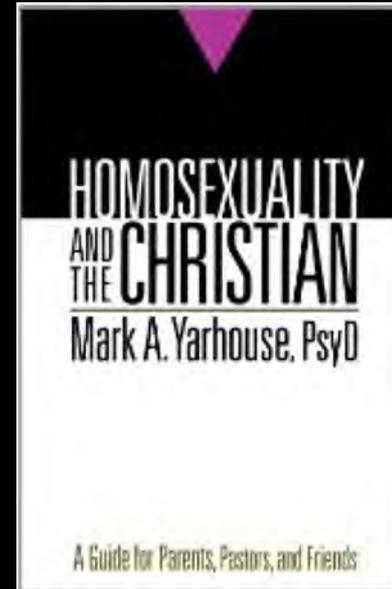
“In another set of studies we compared Christians who adopted a gay identity label to Christians who chose not to adopt a gay identity label. Both groups experienced same-sex attraction. Both groups identified themselves as Christians. We found that both groups were interested in living in a way that was consistent with their beliefs and values. But they had two very different ways of doing this. The Christians who adopted a gay identity made their beliefs and values line up with their identity and behavior.



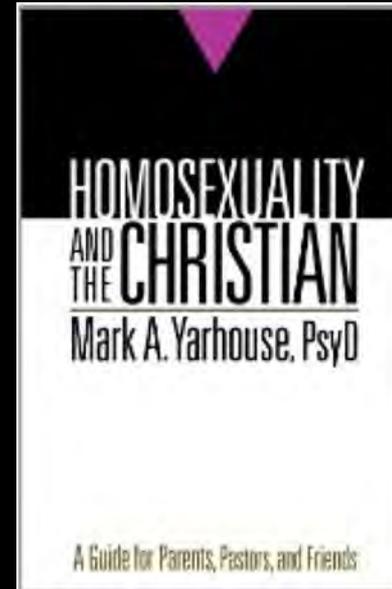
“In other words, identity and behavior came first, and their beliefs and values had to be adjusted to them. On the other hand, the Christians who did not adopt a gay identity made their identity and behavior line up with their beliefs and values. For this group, beliefs and values came first. The Christians who adopted a gay identity talked about worshiping God as gay Christians — that doing so was what it meant to be authentic before God. In contrast, the Christians who did not adopt a gay identity indicated that authenticity meant worshiping God on God’s terms.



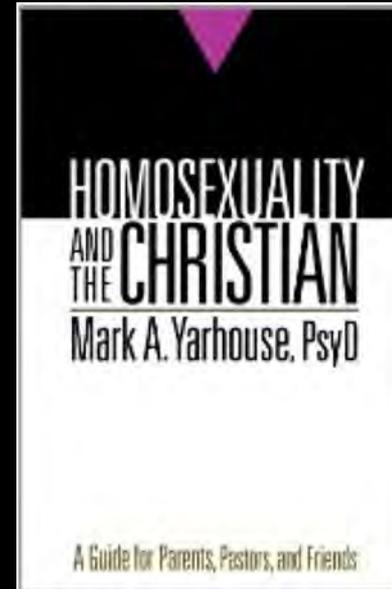
“Worshiping God out of a gay identity would not reflect true authenticity to them. The message that has emerged from these studies is that of another script (and there may be many others). It is essentially an “identity in Christ” script that stands in sharp contrast to the gay script. Here are the script’s basic points:



- Same-sex attraction does not signal a categorical distinction among types of person, but is one of many human experiences that are “not the way it’s supposed to be.”
- Same-sex attractions may be part of your experience, but they are not the defining element of your identity.
- You can choose to integrate your experiences of attraction to the same sex into a gay identity.

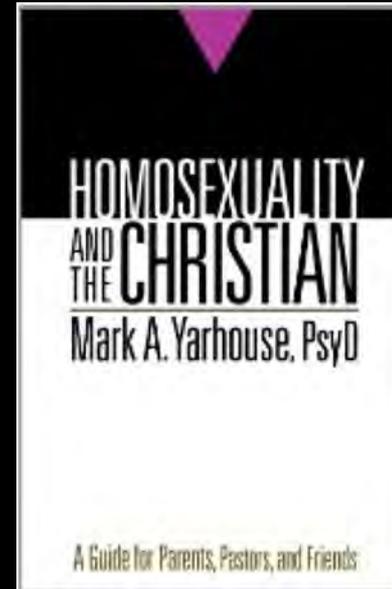


- On the other hand, you can choose to center your identity around other aspects of your experience, including your biological sex, gender identity, and so on.
- The most compelling aspect of personhood for the Christian is one's identity in Christ, a central and defining aspect of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.



“This script relies on the metaphor of integration rather than discovery. Remember that the discovery metaphor assumes that the attractions tell us who the person “really is.” The integration metaphor, on the other hand, begins with a description of the attractions to the same sex and then recognizes that a young person has choices to make about both behavior and identity. The young person can integrate his or her attractions into a gay identity or not.”

~ Mark A. Yarhouse, Homosexuality and the Christian: A Guide for Parents, Pastors, and Friends (pp. 50-52). Baker Publishing Group.



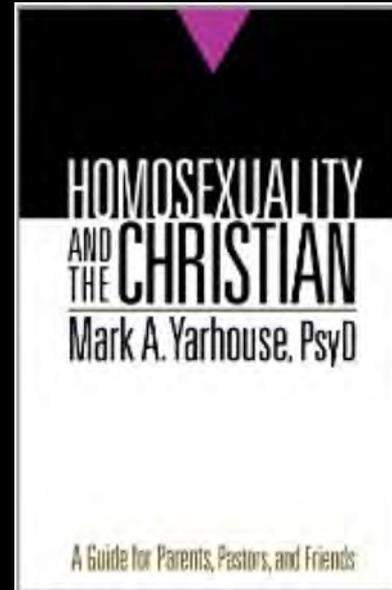
Can a person change sexual identity?



“First, to map out the boundaries within which all discussion must go on, I take it for certain that the physical satisfaction of homosexual desires is sin. This leaves the homosexual no worse off than any [heterosexual] person who is, for whatever reason, prevented from marrying. Second, our speculations on the cause of the [homosexuality] are not what matters and we must be content with ignorance. The disciples were not told why (in terms of efficient cause) the man was born blind (Jn. IX 1-3): only the final cause, that the works of God should be made manifest in him. This suggests that in homosexuality, as in every other tribulation, those works can be made manifest: i.e. that every disability conceals a vocation, if only we can find it, which will 'turn the necessity to glorious gain.’”

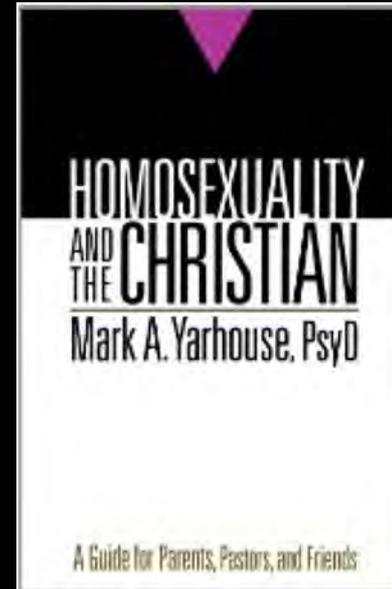
~ Letter from C. S. Lewis regarding homosexuality, quoted in Sheldon Vanauken's *A Severe Mercy*, pp. 146-148, in response to a question from a couple of Christian students of Vanauken who were homosexual and had come to him for advice.

“If we as a church continue to believe that deep spiritual maturity can only come with a change in orientation, then we will be waiting forever for those people who are trying to change but can’t. Either that or we will place great pressure on them to say that they have experienced dramatic change even when they have not. What the church can help people with—regardless of whether orientation changes—is identity.



“We can recognize that a gay script is compelling to those who struggle with same-sex attraction, especially when they see few options emerging from their community of faith. Therefore we can help develop alternative scripts that are anchored in biblical truth and centered in the person and work of Christ. We can also look at our own lives and whether we are really prepared to live in a way that makes Christ our primary identity, whether we experience same-sex attraction or not.”

~ Mark A. Yarhouse, *Homosexuality and the Christian: A Guide for Parents, Pastors, and Friends* (pp. 54-56). Baker Publishing Group.



Hope for the Christian who is struggling with homosexuality

Hope for the Christian who is struggling with same sex attraction

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁷To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Gospel Application

Gospel Application

Are you willing to submit to a biblical world-view
regarding homosexuality?

Gospel Application

Are you willing to submit to a biblical world-view regarding homosexuality?

Do you have a “yuck” factor toward people who have same-sex attraction?

Gospel Application

Are you willing to submit to a biblical world-view regarding homosexuality?

Do you have a “yuck” factor toward people who have same-sex attraction?

If you have some level of same-sex attraction, are you believing the gospel that it is no worse than any other thing, and open up to appropriate others about your struggle?