

How to Help Friends Dealing with Same-Sex Attraction

I. Intro.

- A. A blueprint mentality vs. a blank-slate mentality. Does God have a good plan that He has designed for our sexual desires? Or are our sexual desires something that we follow however we see fit?
- B. Gen. 1:26-28, Gen. 2:18-25: Sex is created as a blessing to be shared between a husband and wife to reflect the glory of God and the gospel story.

II. Myths vs. the truth

- A. Myth #1- *People are homosexual from birth; it is who they are and can never change.*
 - 1. The truth is that there is no scientific basis for the belief that people are homosexual from birth.
 - 2. Can sexual orientation change?
 - 3. What causes sexual attraction?
- B. Myth #2- *Homosexuality is something people simply choose.*
 - 1. The truth is that sexual attraction cannot be completely reduced to a simple choice that people make.
 - 2. Believing this myth destroys compassion and mercy for the sexually broken.
 - 3. If same-sex attraction isn't something people completely choose on their own, then how can we say that it is wrong?
- C. Myth #3- *The Bible never condemns homosexuality or loving, consensual, homosexual relationships. It only condemns homosexual prostitution or rape.*
 - 1. The truth is that every instance where homosexual sexual activity is mentioned in the Bible, it's clear that this is something that is against God's will. Gen. 19, Lev. 18:22, Rom. 1:18-32, 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 1 Tim. 1:8-11
- D. Myth #4- *Your sexual identity (gay, straight, bi-, etc.) is the most important part of who you are. You have the right determine your own identity and it is harmful to deny who you truly are.*
 - 1. The truth is that a Christian's deepest identity isn't found in sexual attraction but in being created by God and redeemed by Jesus.
 - 2. The modern creation of sexual identity

III. What to do if you have same-sex attraction

- A. First, bring it into the light and talk about it with someone who is trustworthy and can show you Christ-like compassion.
- B. Second, understand shame as an evil enemy that wants to destroy you.
- C. Third, trust God's promises of grace and mercy in the gospel.
- D. Fourth, trust God's promise of forgiveness and change even if you don't have any answers right now to scary, important questions.

IV. How to love someone well who experiences same-sex attraction.

- A. Listen first.
- B. Speak God's truth in love.
- C. Encourage the person to not hide but open up to Christ-like, trustworthy people.