

# Same Sex Attraction & Homosexuality

Two Rivers Church is committed to being a welcoming community that honors the word and spirit of Christ, encouraging one another to live a lifestyle of prayer, worship, discipleship, and service that honors the word and Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Because, the Two Rivers community is seeking to live by and honor the word of God the Bible, we aspire to bring every area of our life under the direction and redemption of God's word- including our sexuality.

America has been processing homosexuality in a very public way over the past three decades. There are diverse opinions being expressed on this subject in the political arena and in the religious arena. The tone of this conversation is varied as well, ranging from open hostility and violence to camaraderie and solidarity.

As we watch and participate in this conversation at Two Rivers Church we have four important commitments that we want to honor. They are commitments that we think are inherent in calling oneself a follower of Christ.

- We are committed to conveying to all the story of God paying for our sins through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus. Conveying this story by word and deed is a trust that demands from us an open-heartedness to all people.
- We are committed to support any and all in their personal journey toward a fuller expression of the character of Christ. This demands understanding and tolerance of our imperfections, and patience as patterns of thought are wrestled with. We must foster the progress of all who wish to live as Christ desires them to live.
- We are committed to represent accurately what God has revealed in terms of his thought for humanity. Christ represented God to the very end, and it cost Him His life. We must follow Him in this.
- We are committed to a certain tone and rhetoric in all conversations. Our commitment is to speak our convictions with precision, but humbly, with loving, empathetic, and respectful words.

## Our View Of The Bible

We believe that God has provided for us a written record of His heart and mind with regard to our experience of human life and existence. While this record does not give us an exhaustive revelation of all we might like to know about God, it is a sufficient unveiling of His thought so that we can know with certainty His mind on many matters. We realize that interpreting this record, the Bible, is a challenge, but not in the sense that its meaning is lost or hidden. Interpretation is challenging only because our knowledge of the culture and usage of words within those cultures is limited. And so those of us that have chosen to live by the principles of the Bible know well and first hand the challenges of Bible interpretation. There are sections of it that are very challenging.

## The Bible's Teaching

Having acknowledged the complexity of Bible interpretation, we must say that the passages of Scripture dealing with homosexuality are not among those difficult to interpret. In the entire record of the Bible that deals specifically with this subject, there is no contradiction. Though different human authors separated by centuries of time recorded the words, the accounts of the mind of God on this matter speak as from one voice. The testimony of the Bible is this; homosexuality is not God's will for humanity. [Leviticus 18:22](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#)

To those grappling with same sex attraction, or who have chosen the gay lifestyle those words sting. We must empathize with that feeling. All who are Christ-followers know the feeling well when our natural disposition is confronted. But there is no doubt about what the Bible's message is on homosexuality. Homosexuality is outside of the will of God for all of us.

Only lowering one's view of the Bible and dismissing its words as the testimony of a certain culture from a certain era in history can lead one to do this. To us however, if the Bible were that unreliable, logic would lead us to abandon our entire faith. If the record of the Bible is not reliable, then nothing in it can be trusted, and we would be foolish to base our thinking on any portion of it. In that case, what we have in it is a quaint, cultural tale, not the revelation of the mind of God. We believe that all evidence points to the Bible's reliability.

## The Gospel & Homosexuality

What the Bible says about the practice of homosexuality is relatively easy to establish. How that message should be conveyed must be pondered carefully and prayerfully. We must remember that the grace and love of God must be communicated and demonstrated to all people. Our approach should be to extend the gospel to all with sincerity and love, as a redeeming gift freely offered by God. Mere behavior modification is not God's plan. God, by giving us His Spirit is determined to bring effectual change to each of our lives. God will be faithful to bring inner conviction regarding truth and we must simply say 'yes' to experience life-change.

Can one be a Christian and practice homosexuality? Yes.

Can one be an obedient Christian and be practicing homosexuality? No.

All Christians must choose obedience on a moment-by-moment basis, allowing the prompting and correction of the Holy Spirit to transform us. We each have battles that relate to who we are and how life has shaped us. We must fight the battles and make the choices each moment of the rest of our lives on this earth.

## "But I Can't Fight Who I Am!"

Regarding homosexuality, the statement is often made that it is a naturally determined behavior and a person experiencing same sex attraction must be true to who they are. We believe that this is a flawed argument. In a host of areas God's heart is to take us away from our natural, instinctive leanings to lead us into supernatural living that is shaped within us by the Holy Spirit. We ALL are inclined to sin. God wants to heal and restore us to His design for our lives. Sexuality is just one area in which we are called to something other than what comes naturally. [Galatians 5:15-26](#); [Ephesians 4:17-32](#)

## Our Response Toward Those Experiencing Same-Sex Attraction or Having Chosen A Homosexual Lifestyle

- We will convey the Gospel message that God paid for all of our sins through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus.
- As does God the Father, we are called to welcome anyone seeking a relationship with Jesus Christ into the Two Rivers Church community.
- We will teach and aspire to live by the Bible accurately, even if the culture around us considers the teachings of the Bible unpopular.
- Though our Christian convictions are treated with disrespect, we will make every effort to respond with respect. In our rhetoric we will be kind, respectful, and reasonable.
- Our commitment is to speak our convictions clearly, humbly, with loving, empathetic, and respectful words.

