

On Homophobia

(Feel free to skip this part. I'm just saying there's a lot of LGBTQ+ now compared to 5 years ago)

I find that news outlets worldwide are reporting a marked increase of people 'coming out'. In my home country, nearly one in ten adults now identify as LGBTQ+; among youth, it's closer to one in four. Accompanying the rise in the controversial topic, numerous nations and global institutions have displayed greater social acceptance and some countries instill legal protections and anti-discrimination laws are being updated to reflect the growing recognition of LGBTQ+ rights, and there's been a clear movement toward inclusivity in workplaces, education, and media.

And it elicits the question: What are we meant to do?

The Bible

Humanity is created *male* and *female*, both bearing God's image (Genesis 1:27). Marriage is described as a covenantal union between man and woman, designed for companionship and procreation (Genesis 2:24).

For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged natural relations for that which is contrary to nature, and likewise the men, too, abandoned natural relations with women and burned in their desire toward one another, males with males committing shameful acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

Romans 1:26-27

Yes, humanity has surrendered itself to disordered passions in this way ([Read my blog on beasts to familiarize yourself with this](#)). Scripture teaches that homosexuality is, indeed, a shameful act and inevitably **sin**.

In many passages, the Bible explicitly condemns same-sex relationships, especially in the context of Mosaic Law, which contains prohibitions against homosexuality, incest, and zoophilia, among other acts. These laws were foundational to ancient Israelite society and are still cited by some religious communities to support traditional views on marriage and sexual ethics. Verses in Leviticus describe same-sex relations as “abominations.”

The Church

Unfortunately, there are congregations worldwide that distort or diminish the Word of God. One of the largest examples of this is the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria.

In social media, there are also very questionable sources that proclaim the validity of homosexuality because Jesus *allegedly* told Lazarus to ‘come out’. Yes. This is actually being circulated. I understand that to a normal, conservative Christian that this may seem absurd or absolutely foolish, however there are probably more sources out there that have veered off the biblical context of where Christ calls us to be. So I implore you to guard your hearts when you scroll through media sources and line your life with Scripture, Christian heritage, and the Church’s authority.

My Thought

(I usually avoid inserting personal opinion so this blog remains more than just my own ideas, but I believe this warrants sharing)

If you think that identifying as LGBTQ+ is mainly about sex—that’s shallow. The biblical ethics of “whom we have sex with” might be black and white, but the person and related experiences aren’t. A friend told me that she and her partner hadn’t been intimate in years. Obviously thinking, “That doesn’t sound good,” I asked why she still called herself a lesbian. Her response was that she had a community filled with friends, acceptance, a cause and deep feelings. This made me think of the Church. Many Christians may lack deep intimacy with God but still attend services for community and affirmation. It

reminded me that people are layered. So I ask you: Can we truly reduce a person to their sexual orientation?

For context: I have been touring Türkiye for the last 3 months, regularly meeting new people and attending Sunday services (because I am a good Christian)

If someone who is LGBTQ+ says that it's not mainly about sex, why immediately throw the "homosexuality verses" their way? Talk about holy living down the road. Maybe Christians can own this issue by being kind and making a new friend. In my time in Türkiye, I have met more LGBTQ+ individuals than Turkish Christians (including local church members). Remember: Türkiye is not a Western country; it is a Muslim country (though secularized under Atatürk) and prohibits same-sex marriage. Still, my evangelical approach remains unchanged: to befriend and love them as people made in God's image.

Terms I Learned

Gender identity is who you feel you are inside and how you express those feelings through how you act, talk, dress, etc. *Sexual attraction* is the romantic or sexual feelings you have toward others. *Sexual identity* is how you label yourself (for example, using labels such as queer, gay, lesbian, straight, or bisexual). *Sexual behavior* is who you have sex with and what kinds of sex you like to have.

I sometimes hear boys jokingly identify as objects (surfboards, helicopters, etc.). Immature as it is, these jokes persist even in older generations. Yes, our faith teaches homosexuality is immoral, but we must respond with maturity, recognizing the eternal weight of sin. This is not a joking matter. What if *this* could make the difference between eternal life or death for a person.

Homosexual Intercourse

Some argue the Bible doesn't address same-sex loving monogamous relationships, so it's fine. However, all passages dealing with homosexuality agree that same-sex intimacy isn't God's design—monogamous or not. Sexual intimacy is from God for a man and woman in the covenant of marriage. Outside of marriage, there shouldn't be any expression of sexuality.

So what's the solution? Should we then tell them to become celibate? In our sex-obsessed culture, celibacy is seen as cruel, but it is a blessing. Paul was able to say, "God's grace is sufficient for me" (2 Corinthians 12:9). There's more focus on God, freedom in life, acknowledgement of attraction while still holding to biblical convictions. Intimacy isn't only sexual; it is also experienced through lifelong friendships, supporting causes and family. The church must create an atmosphere of relational opportunities for single people. [It's okay to be single. Just pray about getting married. I pray every day :\)](#)

Love

Love is love, right? Wrong ([Unfortunately, our current understanding of love is flawed in many facets so I will write a separate blog *On Love* for that](#)). God is love (1 John 4:8). This distinction matters because our view of love is often shaped by emotion and desire, but God's love transcends these. Still, we cannot live without love: Jesus is God (John 10:30), Jesus is life (John 1:4), and God is love (1 John 4:8). People will seek love in relationships, purpose, and belonging.

I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35

Like you and I, homosexuals are people. The uncomfortable feeling in the tension of grace and truth is love. and God as well. However, love never harms (Romans 13:10). A theological conviction should never be a catalyst to treat someone poorly. We can accept the person without approving of their choice to be in ([or pursue](#)) a same-sex

relationship. Love people, but remember what the Bible teaches. Deepen your relationships, but hold firm to conviction. Never give up on the person or Scripture. Love never takes sides. Love has no exception clause. I see this love lived out by some parents of gay teenagers. These parents love their kids no matter what and nothing about their relationship changes. They thank the teen for trusting them with this part of their life. At the same time, they hold true to what Scripture says not only about sexuality, but also about loving others.

To the LGBTQ+ person: please, I beg you, be careful taking a hardline stance on something that isn't your foundational identity. Your main identity shouldn't be defined by your sexual orientation; rather God should define it. People are entitled to their beliefs. Many examined Scripture, believe that sexual intimacy is for a man and woman in marriage, and aren't homophobic or hateful. If these people are loved ones (being loving towards you) why shut them out? Don't distance yourself because they don't agree with you or the kind of relationship you might have. Don't treat others who disagree with you the way you wouldn't like to be treated. They might be intolerant in your mind for not agreeing with you. However, are they treating you poorly? Do they love you less? Do they not value you anymore? Don't become intolerant by not giving them margin to have different views.

In Christianity

Oftentimes, Christians make too many mistakes when someone comes out to them. They try to advise counseling. At some point, we will throw out Bible verses concerning homosexuality or marriage. Some Christians try to "relate" and often compare same-sex attraction to other sins like murder, theft, etc. ([Let's not do this](#)). Unfortunately, these are all the not the best things to do. Everyone needs counseling, the person *coming out* probably knows how you interpret the Bible regarding sexuality. This is a moment to listen and affirm your love for them. Think of it this way: The people coming out to you have chosen to share a very intimate and personal part of their life because you are someone they value. You can never get this moment back, and responding the wrong way is devastating.

Closing

I think that this blog should be very straightforward and direct to the common man. It's the type of reading that is easy to understand, but hard to follow. In the same way, many people may understand the Bible, but may also find it difficult to live like Christ. This blog was filled with my own judgement so feel free to be critical on this blog and respond in such ways.

I would also like to note that this blog is titled *On Homosexuality*, but it is applicable to a wide range of communities. The way we treat all of humanity (God's created children) should be the same. God shows no partiality towards us; likewise we should do the same. I wrote this blog in a way so that it may be generalized. I encourage you to reread this blog but think of it as a blog on: Muslims, African-Americans, etc. ([Obviously some of the niche things you can disregard](#))

So... why was this blog *On Homophobia*? Because I find it extremely difficult to love this group of people. Yes, I can force myself to be kind to them, but I want to *love* them. I really think that researching and understanding cultural topics for the LGBTQ+ community has allowed me to soften my heart to these people.

I have read your complaints on the complexity of the past blogs. So here's your break. I loved your thoughts and comments from the last blog and would love to hear from you again.

Slay,
Love,
Ray

PostScript: I've learned a lot while writing this blog. This was supposed to be a funny blog, but as I wrote, I really see the depth to the love Christ enables me in. I had fun writing. I hope you had fun reading :)



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

4 Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, it is not arrogant. **5** It does not act disgracefully, it does not seek its own benefit; it is not provoked, does not keep an account of a wrong suffered, **6** it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; **7** it keeps every confidence, it believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **8** Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away with; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away with.