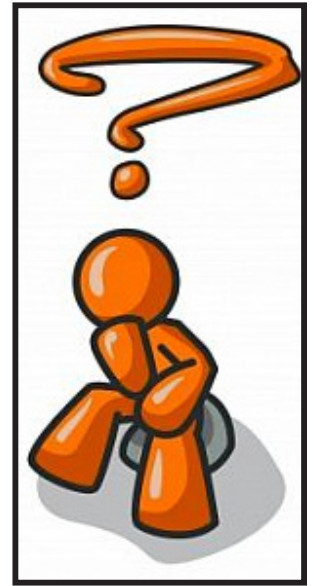


What About ...Same-Sex Attraction?

By JERRY COLLINS

I recently read a message of a pastor given in December 2013 that advocated same-sex attraction for a believer was neither shameful nor sinful. The sermon claimed that being “sexually aroused” and “powerfully drawn” to the same sex, and “fantasizing something sexual” with the same sex, results from one’s “homosexual orientation” and is not a sinful attraction. Instead, we should accept a ‘gay’ Christian’s homosexual attraction and struggle with them not to act out. Since this attraction is no choice of their own, it is neither shameful nor sinful. The sermon declared that “the Bible says nothing about the cause of homosexual orientation. There is not one verse in all of the Bible that addresses this question...the Bible talks a little about same sex actions but says absolutely nothing about WHY some people have same sex attractions...” The sermon also claimed, “Many Christians believe that homosexual orientation may be one of many human conditions, which are the result of being broken people in a broken world...although the Bible teaches that homosexual practice is sinful, to the degree that homosexual orientation is not a choice, it should not be considered or portrayed as sinful or shameful...there is no Biblical or clear scientific evidence that homosexual orientation is a choice...we are responsible for our actions, but not necessarily for our attractions...if a Christian, through no choice of their own, struggles with same sex attractions, they have not sinned.” So is it true that a believer is not responsible for his/her homosexual attraction and thus is not accountable to God for these? Is it correct to teach



that being allured or enticed or turned on or aroused sexually or powerfully drawn to the same sex is neither shameful nor sinful? Is it correct to claim the Bible says nothing about the cause of same sex attraction? Consider the following biblical perspective.

Same-Sex Attraction Is a Sinful Desire

Romans 1:24—*Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.* This verse, in context, uses the word *lusts* to describe the appetite of same-sex attraction. God abandoned them to the lusts they pursued. The lust was the sexual desire for the same sex. These desires originated in their own hearts. The context rules out any possibility that this desire is to be taken in a morally neutral sense. So people are directly responsible for their perverted desires for the same sex.

Romans 1:26—*For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural.* This verse calls same-sex attraction *degrading passions*. The use of this word conveys something more than mere emotion but an intense and potentially overpowering impulse to act in a manner contrary to nature. Specifically, that was same-sex desire for sex with females. So homosexual attraction not only originates in one’s heart, it is also a perversion of the natural desire for heterosexual sex.

Romans 1:27—*and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire*

toward one another; men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. This verse describes same-sex attraction as being inflamed with a desire for the same sex. Literally, an appetite consumed them for that which was unnatural. Specifically, that was the same-sex desire for sex with other males. So homosexual attraction is a perverted erotic desire consumed with committing shameful sexual acts that leads to its own form of destruction. It is not a benign emotion for which there is no personal culpability.

James 1:13-14 also says, *Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.* God does not tempt anyone. Homosexual attraction is the result of one’s own lustful enticement for something evil, whether or not one claims it is his/her orientation. Since it is a temptation for something sinful, the desire itself is sinful.

Same-Sex Attraction Is a Sinful Desire that Requires Repentance

Any desire for a sinful act is sinful. Biblically, same-sex attraction is the desire for homosexual sex. A believer struggling with same-sex attraction cannot validate these sinful desires by claiming to be a “gay” Christian. The Bible knows of no “gay” category. While the attraction may never be eliminated, it is a perverted sexual desire that should never be normalized. Same-sex attraction requires repentance, encouraged and advocated in any number of forms, just as one would with the sinful desire for revenge, or gossip, or homicide, or pride.