



CHANGING  
THE FACE OF CHRISTIANITY

[www.changingthefaceofchristianity.com](http://www.changingthefaceofchristianity.com)

***Our mission is to reverse negative Christian stereotypes in the world and prepare the field for more effective witnessing to non-believers.***

**Negative Stereotype:** Non-Christians believe we are **Anti-Homosexual**.

Treating gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals, cross-dressers, transvestites, and transgendered peoples as immoral and some of the worst "sinners" among us (i.e. especially worse than us). We treat them as wicked or "filthy". We suggest that Aids-HIV is God's punishment of their sexual sin.

- What's your definition of being anti-homosexual?

**A Story to Make It Real:**

*From "artsyatheist" on thinkatheist.com*

*"The truth is that evangelical Christians believe that being gay is a "choice" and a "sin" is homophobic, and perpetuates a culture that wrongly discriminates and marginalizes."*

*From "George K." on thinkatheist.com*

*"I enjoy cross dressing, it makes me feel good about my appearance. It is my right, however the value of that right is severally damaged when I am constantly under question, and attack by members of various religious groups. I know better than to treat people (religious or otherwise) in such a crass and heartless manor. However many religious people, from my experience, do not know better. Are you personally familiar with what it feels like to have people follow you around shouting rude things, throwing empty coffee cups at you, or cornering you with the intention of goading you into a fight? I just want to live my life, my way."*

**Examples: (Do you have any stories to share? What's the impact of our anti-homosexuality?)**

1. We are viewed as anti-homosexual when we are seen protesting gay marriage.
2. We are viewed as anti-homosexual when we oppose adoption by gay parents.
3. "No one goes out and tries to force Christian men to be gay, but many Christians take no issue with going out and trying to forcing gay men to be strait."
4. "You apply your morals to me... to limit MY freedom."

**Discussion:**

- People often say that hate stems from fear or not understanding something. What fears or misunderstandings might we have about homosexuality or befriending homosexuals?
- Are homosexuals born that way or is it a choice/lifestyle? What's your experience/thoughts?
- How should we respond when a homosexual wants to befriend our same sex children?
- Where should we draw the line in influencing our culture/another person with our morals?

**What God Say About It (The Bible):** God speaks to us about homosexuality and sin. In the Old Testament when Jews were under the Mosaic Law, some sins were punished by death and others were allowed to be forgiven by a ritual sacrifice or cleansing. In the New Testament, sexual immorality is discussed as a sin, but for believers, Jesus cleanses us of ALL sins (big and small).

## Old Testament

- **Leviticus 20:13 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

- **Deuteronomy 22:5 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the LORD your God detests anyone who does this.

## New Testament

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> Do 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 <sup>10</sup> nor **thieves** nor the **greedy** nor **drunkards** nor **slanderers** nor **swindlers** will inherit the kingdom of God.

- **1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NIV)**

<sup>18</sup> Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body...<sup>20</sup> ...Therefore honor God with your body.

- **James 2:10 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

- **James 2:13 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

- **Verses for further study:** Rom 13:9-10, Gal 5:16-17, Gal 5:19-21, John 8:7,11, James 1:20

### Discussion:

- Who has a sinful nature (all or just homosexuals?). Are we truly any "better"?
- How does God view one (or any) sin compared to another? (Examples: heterosexual lust, adultery (even just with eyes- better to poke out your eye than go to hell), divorce (let no one separate what God has joined), idolatry of money (cant server two masters), being IN the world and OF the world.) Do we hate "other" people's sin more than our own?
- We are taught: "love the sinner but hate the sin". How can we teach the truth, sincerely and lovingly, without coming across as intolerant, judgmental, and homophobic?
- Jesus came to save not just the righteous, but sinners. Jesus can save even homosexuals and Jesus loves them just as much as he loves us. Do you believe this? Why/Why Not?

### Closing Thoughts on Homosexuality:

How would Jesus treat a homosexual? Similar to how he treated other "sinners" such as prostitutes. He would not condemn them, but love them. And if they accepted Him as their savior, he would forgive them and tell them to go, and sin no more.

### Action:

- 1) In the coming weeks, raise your awareness of how you think and act around homosexuals. Examine your heart and ask God how to respond.
- 2) Study the Bible verses for greater depth and meaning.
- 3) How can you show love to a homosexual friend, family member, co-worker, or acquaintance?

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