

## **Homosexuality and the Bible: Who's Is the Best Narrative?**

Public consciousness about the gay lifestyle has radically changed over the past few decades. From formerly having to live in a closet to the present possibility in many countries of being officially married, the story of gay liberation is a forceful narrative. Do Christians have a compelling narrative for the traditional view of heterosexual marriage? Can the defense of the biblical position combine a proper critique as well as a vigorous defense of human beings, gay or straight, with regard to civil rights, freedom from gay-bashers or homophobes? Are there pastoral answers to the increasing demands and claims from the gay community? This workshop will attempt to orient us into a clear, but balanced response to homosexuality today.

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### 1 A compelling narrative from the gay community

#### 1.1 It all happened so fast

- 1.1.1 Criminalized in the 1950s
- 1.1.2 Lawsuits in the 1970s
- 1.1.3 Change of awareness 1980s
- 1.1.4 Coming out of the closet in the 1990s
- 1.1.5 Pushing back in the 2000s
- 1.1.6 Gay marriage legalized 2010 and beyond

#### 1.2 How it all feels

### 2 What are the facts?

#### 2.1 Number of gay couples

- 2.1.1 In the U.S.
- 2.1.2 In Europe

#### 2.2 Numbers of gay sympathizers

- 2.2.1 Testimonies from sympathizers
- 2.2.2 Testimonies from detractors

### 3 Commending the biblical view

#### 3.1 The image of God

#### 3.2 The place of conjugal marriage

##### 3.2.1 In biblical narrative

##### 3.2.2 Why some parallels are not accurate

### 4 The defense of gay persons

#### 4.1 Civil partnerships

#### 4.2 Pastoral concerns

### **Recommended Resources**

Ruth Haley Barton & Lynne Hybels, *Longing for More: A Woman's Path to Transformation in Christ*, Downers Grove: IVP, 2007

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*, Crown & Covenant, 2012

Erich Fuchs, *Sexual Desire & Love*, Lutterworth, 1979

Robert A. Gagnon, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*, Abingdon Press, 2002

Robert A. Gagnon, *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views*, Fortress press, 2009

Sherif Girgis, Ryan T. Anderson, Robert P. George, *What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense*, New York, London: Encounter Books, 2012

Angus Hunter, *From Venus to Mars and Back*, Destiny/Image, 2009

Tammy Maltby, *Confessions of a Good Christian Girl*, Thomas Nelson, 2008

James Skillen, "Same Sex 'Marriage' Is Not a Civil Right"  
[[http://www.cpjustice.org/stories/storyReader\\$1178](http://www.cpjustice.org/stories/storyReader$1178)]

Edward T. Welch, *Homosexuality: Speaking the Truth in Love*, Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing,