

Building Foundations, Not Fences

Responding to Comments about Homosexuality with Humility, Wisdom, Love, and God's Word

*Many comments or questions about homosexuality are personal and emotional, more than they might be theological or intellectual. In other words, a person may disagree with you about the topic of same-sex marriage and sexuality, but they're not immediately looking for Biblical or theological answers. Their disagreement and frustration likely stems from (1) being hurt personally in the past, (2) a desire to protect a friend who is homosexual, or (3) bad experiences with religion or religious people in the past.

*Begin with humility, a desire to listen and learn, and a spirit of love. The goal isn't simply to win an argument or change someone's mind. The foundation of God's Word and the hope of the Gospel are your key themes.

Slogan #1 - "Jesus never said anything about homosexuality."

- **Response - Jesus strongly reaffirmed the biblical foundation of marriage from Genesis 1-2**, especially God's joining of a man and woman as one flesh.
 - ***Discussion Point** - Ask the other person, "**What do you understand as the boundaries for marriage? Why?**" [Everyone has boundaries for who can be married.]
- **Key Verses** - Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-10; Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:24-25

Slogan #2 - "Love Is Love"

- **Response - Same-sex love is a wonderful thing! True love does not have to be sexual or marital.**
 - Deep friendships of the same sex are a great gift from God. God is love, and we learn to love by receiving His Son Jesus and obeying His commands (inc. those about marriage and sexuality).
- **Key Verses** - 1 John 3:16-18; 1 John 3:23-24; 1 John 4:7-12; John 13:21-25

Slogan #3 - "The church was wrong about slavery and civil rights as well."

- **Response - There are many examples from church history of sinful approaches to race and ethnicity. There is no hiding from this or excusing it. These approaches, though, involved distortion of Scripture.**
 - The overall story of Scripture affirms the goodness of diversity and points beyond slavery.
 - The overall story of Scripture doesn't point to a widening of God's plan for sexuality and marriage. In fact, Jesus reaffirmed and tightened God's design for marriage, while expanding our understanding of "family" and showing how marriage will be fulfilled with the Resurrection and the New Creation.
 - Both Scripture and science show that ethnicity and sexual orientation are not identical.
 - Helpful resource - "The Secular Creed," by Rebecca McLaughlin
- **Key Verses** - Matthew 22:23-33; 1 Corinthians 7:21; Philemon; Revelation 7:9-12; Revelation 21:1-4

Slogan #4 - Homosexuality in the Bible is not the same as a monogamous, same-sex marriage.

- **Response - Jesus strongly reaffirmed the biblical foundation of marriage from Genesis 1-2**, especially God's joining of a man and woman as one flesh. There is no sign that Jesus, Paul, or any other New Testament author intended to expand God's original design for marriage.
 - **Homosexuality is always listed alongside other sins in Scripture.** In these lists, there are no signs the author intended a nuanced view of the sins.
 - Jesus and Paul would've certainly known of pederasty and cult prostitution. They also would've known of more traditional same-sex relationships. Their rejection of sexuality or marriage outside God's original design wasn't limited to pederasty and cult prostitution.
- **Key Verses** - Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-17