

# **Sexuality**

(Rev. 05/25)

## Do gay people get to go to Heaven and not enter the gates?

Before we get started, I need to ask a favor: please read the entire answer before you get mad at me. More importantly, if you get mad at me, please come and yell at me in person. With that said, let's answer this question. Quick answer: no. (Whew! Glad we got that over with!) Something tells me I can't leave it there, though...

So, the first part of the question is whether people can be stuck outside of Heaven. The Bible tells us:

*And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment... - Hebrews 9:27 (NLT)*

In other words, after we die, we get judged by whether we've accepted Jesus as our Savior or not. There's no "hanging around outside the gates". Unfortunately, we have to accept the consequences for our choices in life.

As for the rest of it, your sexuality does NOT determine your salvation; instead, your relationship with God is all that matters. Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior?

## Does the church hate gays?

"The Church" might; OUR church does NOT!

## Will God be upset if I'm part of the LGBTQ community?

Okay, welcome to one of the toughest questions I get asked. Is it tough because the Bible is unclear on this? No. It's tough because I've lost some good friends in talking about this subject. To answer this question, I'm going to ask two HUGE favors:

- First, please listen to EVERYTHING I say before you hate me.
- Second, if you disagree or if I upset you, please, please, please come and talk to me! It really DOES hurt when a friendship ends over something like this!

In this small space, I want to try to explain to you what the Bible does – and does NOT say – about homosexuality. (If I was to do this right, I'd write a small book – say about a thousand pages or so!) Because of space, we're going to hit the highlights, instead. And the best place to begin with is...the beginning:

*Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.*

*So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. Then the LORD*

*God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.*

*“At last!” the man exclaimed. “This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken from ‘man.’” This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. - Genesis 2:19-24 (NLT)*

In the Story of Creation, God specifically makes a pair of humans, one male and one female. Then the Bible goes on to say that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Now, fast-forward a few thousand years and a man named Jesus comes on the scene. He’s asked a question by the religious leaders about divorce. Now you HAVE to understand that this is a trap; they really aren’t looking for an answer, they just want Jesus to say something they can kill Him for! His response is to quote Genesis:

*“Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’ And he said, “‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.” - Matthew 19:4-6 (NLT)*

In this passage, Jesus DOES remind them that marriage is between a man and a woman.

(Just so you know, I do realize that this conversation is about about divorce, not marriage. But, one can logically conclude that if a man and woman are getting divorced, they must have gotten married at some time, too! Does that make sense?)

Now, let’s look at something more...straightforward:

*Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools.*

*That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved... - Romans 1:21-22, 24-27 (NLT)*

This passage seems to be about homosexuality, and it seems pretty end-of-story, right? But, before we walk away, let’s dig a little deeper!

The Bible says that the first – and most important issue – is that the people took their eyes off of God. They began to make up a “god” in their own heads, but this “god” wasn’t based on the Bible! Because of that, they came up with some pretty weird ideas of what was right and wrong. After that, they began to do what Paul calls “their shameful desires”.

Now I've heard a LOT of sermons preached at different churches around the country based on this passage! I've even heard pastors use some pretty vile language to describe those who were homosexual and their lifestyle. And I want to stand up, here and now, and tell you that those people were – what's a loving, Christian phrase? – “idiots”! They were “idiots”! (Yep, that seems to be the right word!)

Do you know why I think they're idiots? Because they only chose to read the parts of the Bible that THEY wanted to talk about. When you do that, when you pull something out of context, when you read only a couple of parts of the whole story, then you're likely to make some pretty HUGE mistakes; and that's what they do.

If Paul had only written the first two paragraphs, the pastors would be correct. Instead, Paul continues on after that to talk about more problems that are created by taking our eyes off of God!

*Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. - Romans 1:28-31 (NLT)*

Hmm... So, what Paul says is that homosexuality is a sin...no different than envy. No different than arguing. No different than gossips. No different than those who break promises.

When was the last time you heard a pastor talk out about the sin of gossip? The churches where I heard them talk about homosexuality wouldn't DARE to talk about gossips! You know why? Because they would have had to kick out all of the little, old, bitties at the back of the church!

“Bitties” is a harsh term for elderly women who sit there and criticize everyone and everything, who think they're better than everyone else, and who spend their time gossiping about everybody else's sins! (Nowadays you'd probably use another word to describe them that sounds similar and is less...nice!) But if a Pastor preached about gossip, they would be so offended! How dare the Pastor preach about...them!

Take a look around you! Do you think that there aren't sinners everywhere around you? When we go after ONLY the homosexual community, we miss the fact that we NEED to go after ourselves, too! Why? Because we're ALL on that list from Romans 1:28-31!

Paul doesn't say homosexuality is a GREATER sin, he says it's simply a sin. It's not what God has planned for us. Just like we're not supposed to be liars, cheaters, haters, and proud...but we are... And here's something that's going to blow some of your minds: you CAN be gay and be a Christian! Just like you can be a liar and a Christian! Or be proud and be a Christian!

But God doesn't leave us where we are at! Instead, if we've asked God to forgive us then we need to allow Him to change us and change our behavior.

So with that, I need to say something and I desperately hope and pray that you hear me! If you're sitting here, reading this, and you are gay, lesbian, transgender, or anything else, I want you to hear me say something on behalf of the church:

**God loves you.**

You are not some terrible thing; you are not something to be ashamed of. God loves you. You know how I know that? Because God loves ALL of His Creation! Let me show you:

*"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him." - John 3:16-17 (NLT)*

It doesn't say that God loves everyone except gay people! It says "all"; unconditionally, unreservedly. God loves us! More than that, I think if Jesus had to choose between hanging out with some of the self-righteous people in some of the churches or in the gay community, I think He would be having dinner at someone's house! In fact, in the Bible, Jesus does that over and over:

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?"*

*When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." - Matthew 9:9-11 (NLT)*

I am absolutely convinced that Jesus would rather spend His time with those who wanted Him than with those who didn't!

So, is God going to be upset with you? Nope! He's going to love you! Is God going to walk away from you? Nope! He's right there...always! Is God going to treat you differently? Nope. While God, through the Bible, does say that homosexuality is a sin, He NEVER says that being LGBTQ means that you are any less of His creation!

By the way, this may come as a shock to some of you, but my goal isn't to "convert" you from being LGBTQ. (I firmly believe that the only person we can change is our self!) What I would encourage you to do is to spend your time building your relationship with God, seeing who He really is, digging in to what the Bible really says, and then making your decisions.

In closing, please know that it would be my greatest honor to call you my friend, whether you belong to the LGBTQ community or not. It would be my honor to sit down and talk with you. And I just want you to know that I'm here for you, if you will let me be!

**With all of the controversy about homosexuality, what about people born**

### **hermaphroditic? How do they fit in? Should they have surgery to correct this?**

Okay, this is a sensitive topic and I'll try to be sensitive in my answer. Today, we are ONLY talking about biological sex – the genitalia that someone is born with. According to sources, you can have people who are:

XX - Biologically Female

X - Biologically Female (low rate of survival, no prominent female characteristics, sterile)

XXX - Biologically Female (normal in most respects)

XY - Biologically Male

XXY - Biologically Male (abnormal genitalia, low testosterone)

XYY - Biologically Male (normal in most respects, higher rate of testosterone production)

Hermaphroditism – Biologically Both (has both ovarian and testicular tissue, rare)

CAH - Biologically Female (outwardly male appearance, lack of cortisol production)

AIS - Biologically Male (outwardly female appearance)

In the first six categories, biological sex is obvious. In the last three, there is a lack of hormones, incorrect hormones, or the individual possesses both male and female reproductive parts. In these cases, either hormonal treatments or sex-reassignment surgery can be done to correct the issue.

However, in a study, it was noted that (a) there is no evidence that...genital surgery leads to improved psychosexual outcomes (they don't necessarily feel better about their sex); (b) feminizing genital surgery cannot guarantee that adult gender identity will develop as female (those who have the surgery may not feel like they are female); and (c) adult sexual function may be altered by surgery (the individual may have sexual problems as a result of the surgery).<sup>1</sup>

So, can people with biological sex issues get surgery? Certainly. Will it help? According to the studies, it may...or it may not... Is there a Biblical commandment either way? No. As such, the decisions, in these cases, rest with the individual. (Again, please understand that this is ONLY referring to the biological sex that the individuals are born with and has nothing to do with the discussion on gender identity!)

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1 Source: <https://www.who.int/genomics/gender/en/index1.html#Sex%20Chromosome%20Abnormalities>

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