Week Seven – October 18, 2026

The Lies We Believe

A Biblical Examination of False Gospels, Spiritual Deception, and the Truth That Confronts!

LBGTQ+ Theology – Part 2

What Will this Class Attempt to Address in Part 2?

1. Explain God's design for marriage in Creation, as affirmed by Jesus.
2. Answer some important questions about same-sex "desire."
3. Explore the revisionist arguments in support of same-sex marriage.

What Will this Class Not Address?

1. Political issues.
2. Legal issues.
3. Specific behaviors of LGBTQ+ people.
4. If toast always lands butter-side down and cats always land on their feet, what happens if you strap buttered toast to a cat?

Why Are We Addressing LGBTQ+?

- The culture (Zeitgeist) has caused harmful changes to marriages, families, and human flourishing.
- It challenges God's created order for marriage and the family.
- The church has feared offending people over holding to God's truth.
- Where people stand on this issue speaks to their understanding of their eternal destiny.
- Christians need to understand the issues to be a faithful witness for Christ in a hurting and lost world. (1 Peter 3:15-16)

What Are the Theological Positions Called?

My position would generally be called "nonaffirming" by LGBTQ+ theologians. I prefer the "historic" or "orthodox Christian position." Not "nonaffirming."

What is Their Theological Position Called?

Their position would generally be called "affirming theologians", I prefer "revisionist," as do many orthodox Christian theologians. *

*For a larger discussion see Kevin DeYoung, *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 20.

Fundamental Questions*

1. What is biblical marriage?
2. How do you define marriage?
3. Where did you get that definition?
4. How does Scripture define marriage?
5. Are sex differences an essential part of marriage?
6. Is the ability to procreate essential to the definition of a marriage?

* Adapted from Preston Sprinkle and Sean McDowell, "Responding to the Top Biblical Arguments for Same-Sex Marriage (ft. Preston Sprinkle)," YouTube video, July 24, 2023, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WTao98xODs.

What is Biblical Marriage?

"And He [Jesus] answered and said, 'Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate'" (Matthew 19:4-6). (cf. Genesis 1:27-28 and 2:24; Ephesians 5:28-32)

Kerrville Bible Church Doctrinal Statement

"Marriage"

"MARRIAGE: We teach that marriage is the fundamental human relationship in the created order. It is defined as a committed one-flesh covenant union between one biological male and one biological female for life (Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:3-6. We teach that marriage was given by God as part of His common grace, and that it has no meaning other than what He has revealed (Genesis 2:18-25). We teach that God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the building block of human society…"

Kerrville Bible Church Doctrinal Statement
"Sexual Intimacy"

"SEXUAL INTIMACY: …Sexual intimacy is meant to occur only between a male and female who are married to each other. God has commanded that no sexual intimacy be engaged in outside of a monogamous marriage (Hebrews 13:4). We teach that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, pornography, bisexual conduct, incest, pedophilia, bestiality or any attempt to change one's biological sex or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:1-30; Matthew 5:27-32; Romans 1:24-32; I Corinthians 5:1-5, 6:9-11; I Thessalonians 4:1-8)."

The Nashville Statement*

(2017)

On August 25, 2017, during The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC)

national conference in Nashville (at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center), The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood held a meeting of evangelical leaders, scholars, and pastors.

Participants discussed and endorsed the statement. It was released publicly online on August 29, 2017, as "The Nashville Statement: A Coalition for Biblical Sexuality." Initial signatories numbered more than 150.

Those who signed the Statement included John Piper, R. Albert Mohler Jr., Russell Moore, John MacArthur, R. C. Sproul, J. I. Packer, James Dobson, Wayne Grudem, D. A. Carson, Francis Chan, Rosaria Butterfield, Kevin DeYoung, Ligon Duncan, and many Southern Baptist leaders, seminary presidents, and others across evangelical traditions.

*A pdf of the Statement can be found at: https://cbmw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/FINAL-LIST_The-Nashville-Statement.pdf

The Main Bible Passages Applied to Homosexuality

1. Genesis 1:27; 2:21-24; & Matthew 19:5 (God's design)
2. Genesis 19:1-11; Judges 19:22-25
3. Leviticus 18:22
4. Leviticus 20:13
5. Romans 1:26-27
6. I Corinthians 6:9-10
7. I Timothy 1:9-10
8. Jude 7

How Would You Respond?

1. Jesus never even spoke about homosexuality!
2. The biblical writers were referring to the dominant, exploitative, and violent homosexuality of their day!
3. The biblical writers did not even know about sexual orientation or the kind of loving relationships of today!
4. The Bible did not even have the word "homosexual" in it until the 1946 Revised Standard Version!
5. Same-sex attraction is not sinful—only the behavior!

We Need to Do Our Best Thinking

Luke: "Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

"Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs *were* two hundred; and all their kinsmen *were* at their command" (1 Chronicles 12:32).

Jesus: "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves." (Matthew 10:16)

Paul: "Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature" (1 Corinthians 14:20).

Peter: "Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:13).

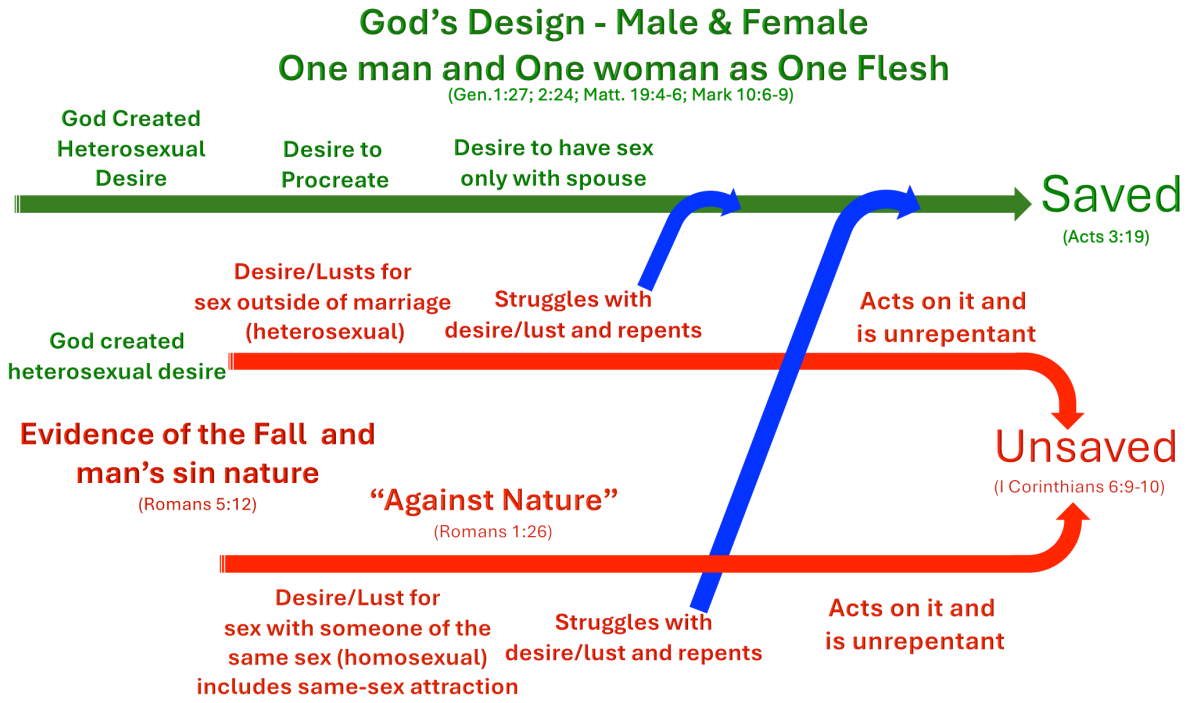
Questions About Same-Sex Desire

1. Is having a same-sex desire sinful if it doesn't go further than thoughts only?
2. Does it become sin only when someone is tempted and, instead of resisting it, acts upon it?
3. Is it sinful if someone is single and they notice someone of the same sex is attractive?
4. Are same-sex thoughts sinful only when they give way to lusting after another person of the same sex?
5. Are homosexual sins worse than heterosexual sins?

6. Likewise, is it sin if someone is heterosexual, married, and notices that someone of the opposite-sex is attractive?
7. Because God's design was for a male and female to become one flesh in marriage, is opposite-sex attraction sinful if the person doesn't lust or act on that attraction?
8. How is same-sex attraction different than opposite-sex attraction in sinfulness?
9. Is a person who admits that they are same-sex attracted, but recognizes the sin, is struggling with the sin, and remains celibate welcome to fellowship in Kerrville Bible Church? Welcome as a member of KBC?

A Complete Discussion of Desire, Temptation, and Lust Is Beyond the Scope of This Class

- The common word for "desire" in Greek is "epithumeo" and can be positive or negative:
- Matthew 13:17 "For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see..." (positive)
- Matthew 5:28 "but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery..." (negative)
- James 1:14 "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust." (negative)
- We need to be careful thinking same-sex attraction is not same-sex desire/lust."



Some of the Arguments are Beyond Understanding

"Socialism in general has a record of failure so blatant that only an intellectual could ignore or evade it." Thomas Sowell (Economist)

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former." Attributed to Albert Einstein

The Arguments and Our Responses

Jesus never even spoke about homosexuality!

The Argument:

Jesus never spoke of homosexuality, and if He had, He would have approved the loving homosexual relationships of today.

This is called the argument from silence.

The Response:

1. There was no disagreement among the Jews about homosexuality.
2. Universally, the Jews held that homosexuality was immoral and against nature. It was not up for debate.
3. No Jewish writer affirmed homosexuality within 500 years on either side of the first century.*
4. Jesus need not mention what was fully understood.
5. Jesus primarily addressed issues He wanted to correct.*

   *See Preston Sprinkle, *Does the Bible Support Same-Sex Marriage? 21 Conversations from a Historically Christian View* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2023), 144-146.

6. Jesus condemned all sexual immorality [porneia] and lust [epithumeo].

- "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications [porneia], thefts, false witness, slanders" (Matthew 15:19).
- "But I say to you, that everyone who looks at a woman with lust [epithumeo] for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).
- (cf. Mark 7:20–23; Matthew 5:32; & Revelation 2:20–22).

7. Jesus didn't speak of child abuse, human trafficking, racism, polygamy, pederasty, or bestiality either. Does that mean He was okay with those?
8. Jesus didn't say something about all the sins He finds wrong.
   - John 21:25: "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written."

A Different Kind of Homosexuality

The Argument:

The biblical writers were referring to the dominant, exploitative, and violent homosexuality of their day!

The biblical writers had no understanding of the kind of the consensual same-sex relationships and the modern concept of sexual orientation we have today.

Today's same-sex relationships are loving and committed.

The Response:

1. The Bible does not put any limits or clarifications on homosexuality. Rather, it condemns homosexuality in every passage where it is discussed.

2. If Paul had meant specific kinds of homosexual relations, he could used other Greek words to describe them, e.g., "erastes" and "eromenos" for the dominant partner relations or if man-boy then "paiderastes" or "paidophthoros."*
3. In 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:10 Paul used the Greek word "arsenokoitai." Paul coined this word by combining "arsen" (man) and "koite" (bed). In other words, "men who go to bed with men."

*See Preston Sprinkle, *Does the Bible Support Same-Sex Marriage? 21 Conversations from a Historically Christian View* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2023), 89.

4. Paul was covering all forms of homosexuality.
5. Paul uses "effeminate" (Greek "malakos" meaning "soft") in 1 Corinthians 6:9, which related to the male who takes the part of a woman in homosexual relations.
6. Based on the entire N.T. writings and the ancient writers no one can say that Paul was unaware of the number and diversity of homosexual relations and relationships. *
7. Think of how often Paul condemned sexual immorality. Would it make sense that he would approve of homosexual relations?

*For a discussion of ancient sources see Kevin DeYoung, *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 82-87.

8. Female homosexuality was described by the ancients as primarily consensual.
9. Paul says "in the same way" (NASB) or "likewise" (KJV) in 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..."
10. This likely indicates that Paul was aware of consensual relations for both women and men.
11. Would it make sense that Paul would condemn some homosexual relations and not other types of relations?

One argument made by gay-affirming theologian, James V. Brownson is:

- "It is not desire itself that Paul opposes, but excessive desire, which directs itself toward what is not rightly ours, overcoming self-control and obedience to God."*
- Brownson's argument is that the general Greek word for desire is "epithumia," so Paul could have used "epithumia" if he was condemning all desire.
- However, Paul used the Greek word "orexis" which is meant to be "lust" as used in Romans 1:27 NASB Romans 1:27 "...burned in their desire..."

*James V. Brownson, *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, (2013), 164.

The Response:

- Paul condemns all sexual immorality throughout his writings.
- Paul does use "epithumia" (desire) when condemning desires of the flesh and sexual immorality. (cf. Col. 3:5; Gal. 5:16-17; 5:24).
- Therefore, is it likely that Paul would be against homosexual relationships that were based on lust while okay with ones that were merely "desire"?

- Whether "desire", "lust", or "passion", sexual relations outside of marriage are sinful!

The Word "Homosexual" Not in the Bible!

The Argument:

- The Bible did not even have the word "homosexual" in it until the 1946 Revised Standard Version.
- The word "homosexual" is a noun and refers to someone who merely has same-sex desires rather than the behavior.
- The word "homosexual" is a mistranslation of the Greek "arsenokoitai", in 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:9-10.
- Therefore, (1) Paul is not saying that person who has a homosexual desire is going to hell; (2) The homosexual desire is not sinful in and of itself, just the homosexual acts.
- As a result, homosexuals are now thought to be going to hell even if they are Christians who are struggling with the sin, are repentant, and celibate.

The Response:

1. We concur that "homosexual" is a noun, as well as an adjective.
2. The first use of "homosexual" was in 1892 according to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED).
3. Would they rather be called a "sodomite", as they were previously?
4. Paul's use of "arsenokoitai" (homosexual) and "malakoi" (effeminate) was because Paul saw both the same-sex desire and the behavior as sinful.

"Homosexual Lawsuit"

Fowler v. Thomas Nelson Publishing and Zondervan Publishing:

In June of 2008, Bradley Fowler (writes Bible study guides) filed a lawsuit against Zondervan Publishing and Thomas Nelson Publishing. Fowler alleges that using the word "homosexual" in their King James Version of the Bible caused him harm and violated his constitutional right. He sued for a total of $70 million. The case was dismissed.

Fowler asserted that he had "endured acts of hate [and] discrimination, continued to suffer from an inability to sleep, and no longer had any appetite for food.

Lawsuit can be found at: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCOURTS-mied-2_08-cv-12572/pdf/USCOURTS-mied-2_08-cv-12572-1.pdf

5. Orthodox Christians hold that "homosexual" applies to those with same-sex attraction/desire.
6. Paul likely coined the word "arsenokoitai" to mean "men who bed other men" or "men who have sex with other men."
7. Paul used "malakoi", which means "soft" or "effeminate" to refer to men who play the female role in homosexual relations.
8. Some orthodox Christian theologians concur that the word "homosexual" is not a good literal translation because of the harm it does to homosexuals who are Christians and celibate.*

*See Preston Sprinkle, *Does the Bible Support Same-Sex Marriage? 21 Conversations from a Historically Christian View* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2023), 128-129.

Love is Love—It's Not Fair!

The Argument:

- Jesus calls us to love everyone.
- Today's same-sex relationships are built on love and commitment.
- Love is love and should be celebrated and not condemned ever.
- Condemning loving same-sex relationships is discriminatory.
- Christians are making gays miserable.

The Response:

1. This argument makes the following assumptions:
   - Human flourishing is not possible without a sexual relationship.
   - Single people cannot flourish.
   - Jesus and Paul must be wrong that the gift of celibacy can be better than being married.
   - Single people cannot have a complete relationship with the Lord without a sexual relationship. (cf. celibacy passages: Matthew 19:10-12 and 1 Corinthians 7:32-35).
   - Opposite-sex married people are not lonely.
   - People who are tempted with adultery, pornography, substance abuse, or other sins are not also struggling.
2. The Bible does NOT make love dependent upon sex!
3. This argument appeals to love while rejecting the Bible's clear teaching about sexual sin.
4. There are many stories of Christians with same-sex desires who speak of their wonderful relationships with the Lord and how they are flourishing.
5. Gays choose to embrace one (claim of love) and reject what God says is sinful)?
6. Marriage, as God created it and Jesus affirmed it, is a pre-political institution.
7. God's created order existed before the Mosaic law or government.
8. Government exists to reward good and punish evil. (1 Peter 2:14).
9. Prohibitions on same-sex marriage and divorce are good and right for society.

   *Kevin DeYoung, *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 139-140.
10. Marriage between one man and one woman is especially beneficial for children, as numerous studies have shown.
11. Children do much better when father and mother are married.*
12. Prohibiting same-sex marriage furthers God's created design for marriage and the family.
13. "If chastity is too much to ask of the person with same-sex sexual desires, then it is too much to ask of the person with heterosexual desires."

Voddie Baucham YouTube Video "Love Can Be Sinful" Voddie Baucham, "Love Can Be Sinful! | Voddie Baucham," YouTube video, posted by Love for Truth Ministries, March 27, 2023, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WIoPaBSU-U.

Some People Are Born Gay, So It Must Be Okay

The Argument:

- People do not choose to be gay—they are born that way.
- Same-sex orientation is innate, fixed and determined biologically. (Nature vs. Nurture)
- People who argue this may be arguing that it removes the moral responsibility for their desires and behavior.

The Response:

1. Saying being gay is innate and unchosen would allow other people to argue they were born to be an adulterer, child molester, thief, liar, murderer, etc.
2. All sin is, in one sense, innate because of the Fall (Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21).
3. If you mean innate because of the Fall, then all sin is innate, which we do hold.
4. The change in percentage of people claiming to be gay in the past compared to recent numbers cannot be explained by an unchosen biological factor. (Increase from 4.1% identifying as gay to 9% in 2025*).
5. Keep in mind that surveys in this area suffer from the willingness or unwillingness to be identified as gay. Some claim to be gay who are not and some do not claim who are.
6. There is evidence that, at least for high school girls, they see being gay as trendy, cool, and accepted by the culture.

*These percentages are not directly comparable because the surveys used somewhat different categories and age groups

Christopher Yuan

"It's not about heterosexuality or homosexuality, but holy sexuality."*

*Christopher Yuan, *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God's Grand Story* (Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2018), quoted in Sean McDowell, "Tough Qs on Same Sex Marriage," YouTube video, July 28, 2023, 12:01, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rc1rvFDFup4&t=721s.

Resources

(Top Recommendations Noted by *)

Conservative Evangelical Books:

*DeYoung, Kevin. *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015. Note: DeYoung's book is an easier read than the Burk book.

* Denny Burk and Heath Lambert, *Transforming Homosexuality: What the Bible Says about Sexual Orientation and Change* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2015). Note: This book is quite scholarly and a little more difficult to read than the DeYoung book above.

Sprinkle, Preston. *Does the Bible Support Same-Sex Marriage? 21 Conversations from a Historically Christian View*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2023. Note: Sprinkle leans heavily toward care for Christians who are gay such that some of his comments seems less committed.

Robert A. J. Gagnon, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001).

Rosaria Butterfield, *Five Lies of Our Anti-Christian Age* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2023).

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey into Christian Faith*, expanded ed. (Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant Publications, 2014).

Christopher Yuan, *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God's Grand Story* (Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2018), (Note: This is a book written by a same-sex attracted person who has become heterosexual.

The Nashville Statement on Same-Sex Attraction/Desire and Same-Sex Marriage

*The Nashville Statement on Biblical Sexuality can be found at: https://cbmw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/FINAL-LIST_The-Nashville-Statement.pdf

Scholarly Pro LGBTQ+ Books

James V. Brownson, *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2013).

Readable Pro LGBTQ+ Book

Matthew Vines, *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships*, rev. and expanded ed. (New York: Convergent Books, 2025).

YouTube Videos

Q&A | The Bible & Human Sexuality | Denny Burk, Pastor Mike Fabarez, Pastor Heath Lambert https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_98Igk5dYw&t=2097s Note: Excellent discussion between some of the signers of the Nashville Statement.

McDowell, Sean, and Matthew Vines. "What Does the Bible Say About Homosexuality? Sean McDowell and Matthew Vines in Conversation." YouTube video, posted by Sean McDowell, February 3, 2018. Video. Note: This video is a discussion/debate between Vines who is gay and McDowell.

McDowell, Sean. "Responding to the Top Biblical Arguments for Same-Sex Marriage (ft. Preston Sprinkle)." YouTube video, July 24, 2023. Video. Note: Like Sprinkle's books, the comments seem to lean toward care than principled at times.

McDowell, Sean. "Tough Qs on Same Sex Marriage." Featuring Preston Sprinkle. YouTube video, July 28, 2023. Video. Note: Like Sprinkle's books, the comments seem to lean toward care than principled at times.