

FOOTHOLDS

Lesson 5: GLBT

- I. **The term GLBT:** Wikipedia says that GLBT or LGBT is a term coined in the 1990's to replace the phrase "gay community" and "collectively refers to 'lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender' people . . . to emphasize a diversity of 'sexuality and gender identity-based cultures'."
- II. **The definitions of the GLBT:** The Merriam-Webster Dictionary offers the following definitions of the four words comprising the GLBT.
 - A "**gay**" is a homosexual or a person "characterized by a tendency to direct sexual desire toward another of the same sex."
 - A "**lesbian**" is a homosexual female.
 - A "**bisexual**" is a person who is "characterized by a tendency to direct sexual desire toward both sexes."
 - A "**transgender**" is a person "who identifies with or expresses a gender identity that differs from the one which corresponds to the person's sex at birth."
- III. **The agenda of the GLBT:** The GLBT movement is not merely looking for public tolerance, but official acceptance and endorsement in government policies and laws and "couched in terms of social justice."
- IV. **The assumption of the GLBT:** The assumption underlying the agenda of the GLBT is that sexual behavior, just like race and gender, should be protected as a civil right.
- V. **Science and the GLBT:** No definitive, scientific research has been done to validate the assumption that homosexual or bisexual orientation is biologically determined.
- VI. **The morality of the GLBT:** The Bible teaches that sexual behavior is essentially a moral issue and not a civil right, and that homosexual behavior is morally wrong.
 - **Genesis 19:1-11:** God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of her many sins, but especially rampant homosexuality (cp. Jude 7).
 - **Leviticus 20:13:** The Mosaic Law taught that homosexual behavior was an abomination to God and punishable by death.
 - **1 Corinthians 6:9-10:** Paul taught that those who engage in homosexual behavior will be rejected from inheriting the Kingdom of God.
 - **1 Timothy 1:8-11:** Paul taught that the Mosaic Law exposed homosexual behavior as sinful and in need of the cleansing power found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - **Romans 1:26-27:** Paul taught that homosexual behavior is a form of God's judicial abandonment against those who reject His self-evident existence.

Conclusion: Although we should not be supportive of “sex-change” surgeries, we should embody “grace and truth” toward those in the GLBT community.

1. If we helped raise a person who has a homosexual or bisexual lifestyle, let’s confess any sinful ways that may have influenced his or her choice, but let’s refuse to personally condemn ourselves.
2. Let’s commit the person to the Lord to work in his or her life.
3. Most homosexuals are on the defensive, so let’s surprise them with grace.
4. Let’s love them, and not hate them, because condemnation doesn’t do any good. By the way, loving them is not an endorsement of their sin.
5. Let’s remember that the Lord loves and desires to have a personal relationship with every human being, regardless of his “sin of choice”.
6. Let’s develop an authentic relationship with those who are struggling with their sexual orientation and behavior. This might include phone calls, texting, and face-booking.
7. Let’s pray for them, respect them, but not preach to them.
8. Let’s not make a person’s sexual orientation and behavior the issue that dominates our relationship and conversation with him or her. If asked, let’s share our thoughts and beliefs, but not every time we get together.
9. Let’s not be afraid to physically touch a person struggling with his or her sexual orientation, or someone whose sexual orientation is different than ours. Remember, heterosexuals are not romantically or sexually drawn to every member of the opposite sex they hug, and neither are homosexuals.
10. The vast majority of today’s homosexuals tend to reject labels and boxes, because they feel constrained and their choices seem limited. Therefore, let’s shy away from too many labels and boxes in order to relate with each person as a person.
11. Sexual orientation is very fluid and experimental, especially among the young. Therefore, let’s be very careful about hard categorizations, because most young people are very much in process. Labeling may do more harm than good.
12. Boundaries may become necessary in order to protect ourselves and our family, especially young children, from unwanted exposure to same-sex behavior (cp. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13). For example, we may not want a person who engages in homosexual behavior to babysit our children. Parents are to protect those who don’t have the emotional maturity and mental ability to process certain types of behavior.

For additional help:

www.GodandScience.org

www.ExodusInternational.org

www.PureIntimacy.org

www.probe.org (click on “Marriage, Sexuality, and Personal Development” articles)