



Should We Support Gay Marriage?

Romans 6:19: (NASB) *...For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.*



The world and the times we live in present great opportunity, as well as great challenge. We are daily overwhelmed with the clamoring for individual rights by so many, and for the most part, this is a great thing. This morning we are going to look at one of the most volatile topics of all - gay rights and gay marriage. Where should we stand? Should we be supportive? Opposed? Does the Bible send a clear message on this? What did Jesus have to say?

What is the issue?

Genesis 2:20-24: (NASB) ²⁰The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²²The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³The man said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.



Observations:

- No suitable (literally!) conspicuous helper for the man.
- God is often called our helper, using the same Hebrew word in the Old Testament.
- God made woman from man, she is of the same makeup as he.
- Therefore, they are to be joined and become as one flesh.
- This union is not based on love - it is based on a commitment. Commitment is the overriding factor in this covenant made before God.



Bible misinterpreted, Episcopal Gay Bishop Gene Robinson, NBC Today

- *The traditional understanding of what the Bible says about homosexuality is flawed and needs to be reinterpreted.*
- *We used scripture to justify slavery, to subjugate women and now we are realizing that what the Bible initially seems to say about same sex relationships is not actually what we are talking about today...*

Do the Scriptures present a harmonious perspective on this subject, or are they silent? Are statements repeated between Old and New Testaments?

There was a carryover from the Genesis Scripture to the New Testament:

Matthew 19:6: (NASB) *So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.*

The point is often made (as we shall see) that the Bible does not deal at all with same sex relationships; therefore, they are acceptable as long as they fit within the guidelines as other relationships regarding respect, love, etc.



The point is also often made that we as Christians are just a bunch of uninformed zealots whose heads are in the sand.

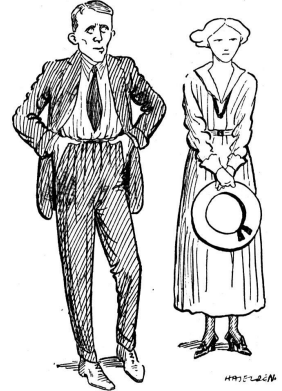
Science and Homosexuality - Nature vs. Nurture - "Christian" frowns on science

- *People often ask if homosexuality is a choice...let's see what the latest science has to say...*

Some people believe the Christian viewpoint has nothing to do with reality. We would like to debunk that theory as we progress.

To begin, the concept of marriage between a man and a woman is throughout the Bible, and we are using this as a basis.

Hebrews 13:4: (NASB) *Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*



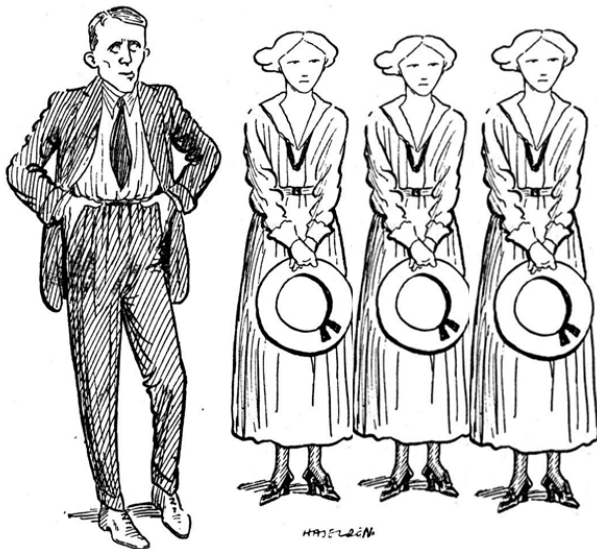
Is Homosexuality a result of Nature or is it a result of Nurture?

 In the Womb, Identical Twins Introduction, *National Geographic*, 12/21/08

- *Are people born gay? In the general population, the chance of someone being gay is less than a 5% chance...unless you have a gay twin! Then the chances are much higher. If you are fraternal sharing half your genes, there is a 25% chance that you will also be gay. If you are identical sharing all your genes, there is about a 50% chance you will also be gay.*

The Bible does not comment directly upon this issue. But it does comment on things that are "natural" in the New Testament that we will discuss later in this program.

Let's first look at something that many say destroys the Bible's credibility - polygamy. Many say that the Bible is "full" of this practice and it goes against the one man/one woman marriage concept, therefore exceptions to that concept are acceptable. But consider this:



- There are only a few examples of polygamy in the scriptures;
- Most notable are kings of the Old Testament;
- There are NO Christian examples of polygamy - only one man/one woman

Did God endorse or tolerate polygamy?

Deuteronomy 17:14-20: (NASB) ¹⁴When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,' ¹⁵you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman. ¹⁶Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for



himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.' ¹⁷He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself. ¹⁸Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, ²⁰that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.

It was not God's design for Israel to have a king like everybody else. God gave instructions on how that king was supposed to act, even though it wasn't what He wanted. He respected their free will. To be godly, the king was not to have multiple wives. The king himself was to hand write these laws and keep them for continual reading.

Did God support polygamy? No, He *tolerated* it. As a Christian, are we trying to do things God's way, or are we trying to rationalize so that *our* way is "good enough?"

God warns about wrong courses but shows His willingness to let the consequences of our actions have their effect.



In the Womb, Identical Twins Fetal Development and Testosterone, *National Geographic*, 12/21/08

- It can't all be up to genes, otherwise every identical pair of twins would either be both gay or both straight. Some other factor must be at play.*
- In their first few weeks, all fetuses develop along similar lines. If nothing changed, each of us would be born female...at about eight weeks, testosterone masculinizes the body and also masculinizes the brain.*

The program went on to say that there is a noted difference in the masculinization of the brain in the two twins. It could be the reason one has the orientation that the other doesn't.

Let's assume for now that it is nature that creates homosexuality. Does that mean that people born with a homosexual orientation are inherently more sinful than someone who is not?

Just as God set the standard for Israel's kings and allowed their free will, so the standard was set for the leaders of the true Christian church in the New Testament - no matter what your personal physical tendencies. There are standards that God set, even if you are not naturally inclined to be "satisfied" with just one wife...

1 Timothy 3:1-2: (NASB) ¹*It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.* ²*An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach...*

Standards were put in place. There are clearly things that we therefore should do and shouldn't do.



So, what does the Old Testament say regarding homosexuality?

Let's begin with the two primary Old Testament texts that address the issue:

Leviticus 18:22: (NASB) *You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.*

Leviticus 20:13: (NASB) *If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.*

 **Monogamous gay relations, Episcopal Gay Bishop Gene Robinson, NBC Today**

- *It's the interpretation of many Biblical scholars today that what the Scriptures are talking about are not what we are talking about today - faithful, monogamous life-long intentioned relationships between people of the same sex.*

Are the above Scriptures talking about a monogamous relationship? Or just a physical act?

Does it matter?

Key Old Testament Principle:

*The Law judges based primarily upon what you do.
For the most part it was a black-and-white separating
process: Do wrong and you are punished;
do right and you are blessed.*

It did not judge intention.

 **Truth about Homosexuality and the Bible, Reverend Michael Piazza, youtube.com**

- *Almost all of the Levitical Laws are ignored. We ignore the laws like those prohibiting eating pork, eating shellfish or wearing clothes of two kinds of fiber. Those laws are just as out of date as the laws against homosexuality.*

While we do freely admit that we are not bound by the ritualistic laws of Leviticus, it is important to look at the *context* of these texts and see if they are "throwaways" as Mr. Piazza indicates:

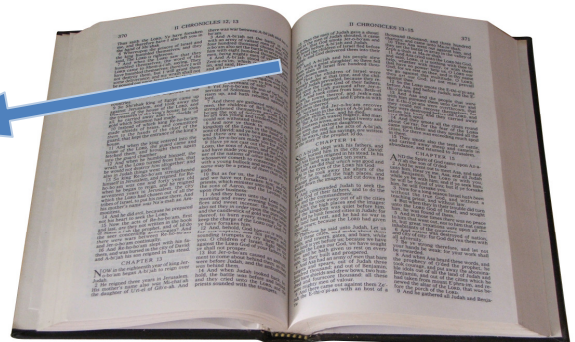
The broad context of Leviticus chapters 18-21 is very practical, outlining core values:

Chapter 18: Laws in immoral relations specific to not doing what others do.

Chapter 19: Laws on idolatry and the proper treatment of others.

Chapter 20: Laws on human sacrifice and immorality.

Chapter 21: Regulation concerning the priesthood.





Here are selected verses from Leviticus 18 - are these all “throwaway” verses?

Leviticus 18:1-3: (NASB) ¹Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God. ³You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes.

The warning was not to adopt the moral behavior of the Egyptians or the Canaanites.

Leviticus 18:6-23: (NKJV) ⁶None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: (pursue sexual intimacy) I am the LORD. ¹⁵You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law—she is your son's wife—¹⁶You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness. (When your brother becomes one with his wife, that is why it is now his nakedness) ²¹And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, (burning your children in sacrifice to the god Molech) nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. ²²You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. (This one statement is not out of context with the others.) ²³Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.

This entire chapter involves acts that we agree are not right.

Leviticus 18:24: (NASB) Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled.

If within the context of these strong moral guidelines there is a prohibition against homosexuality, what does that mean? Does it cancel out a loving homosexual relationship? We will continue to explore...

Leviticus 18 creates its own unique and important context!

recap
recap

- God's original set-up was man and woman for life - a commitment to be one flesh. (God did not design polygamy, but He tolerated it.)
- There are Pastors who claim that the Bible does not condemn loving gay relationships.
- Claims are made that the Leviticus texts (18:22 and 20:13) are “throwaway” texts.
- The context reveals otherwise, that they are foundational moral laws.
- The Law primarily judged actions.

What did Jesus have to say about gay relationships?

 Jesus silent, Reverend Michael Piazza, youtube.com

- Jesus, whose disciples we are, said nothing about homosexuality - that fact alone should be enough to give thoughtful Christians pause.

Was Jesus truly silent on the matter? Well, he did NOT mention any specifics on homosexuality, but...

- ...he was also silent about incest - does that mean he condoned it?



- ...he was also silent about wife swapping - does that mean he condoned it?
- ...he was also silent about witchcraft and bestiality - does that mean he condoned it?

Jesus was not silent on these things, he just had no need to be specific! The Law that he himself fulfilled addressed all of this.

Matthew 5:17: (NASB) *Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.*

Jesus looked at the moral law and held to it. Jesus then goes on to teach about several moral matters of the Law and even raises the original standards!

Matthew 5:21-22: (NASB) ²¹*You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'* ²²*But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court...*

The harder standard to live by is that even by being angry at your brother, it is as if you are murdering him. Jesus looked at the spirit of the Law and not the letter of the Law.

Matthew 5:27-28: (NASB) ²⁷*You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery';* ²⁸*but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

Now it is not enough to avoid adultery, but we must avoid even the thoughts of adultery! The Law judged actions. They will still be judged, but now even the thoughts have to be addressed. The standard is even higher.

Matthew 5:31-32: (KJV) ³¹*It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:* ³²*But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.*

Fornication by definition is any sexual act outside of marriage, so Jesus DOES deal with the issue. This would include living together before heterosexual marriage, too!

This next clip is a personal story of a gay man who tried to kill himself by jumping off a bridge because of his pain. We have to acknowledge the emotional trauma people go through.

 **My suicide story - I knew God couldn't love me, *Gay Family Values*, youtube.com**

- *I was so angry at myself that I couldn't even kill myself right. I just wanted the pain to end. I knew that if I came out to my mother, father, brother, sister, friends and girlfriend that they wouldn't be looking at me the same. I knew that God couldn't love me for who I was, because if anybody felt as ugly and unloved as I did, there wasn't a place on this planet for me.*

God can't love us for who we are? Wrong. We are not defining sexual orientation by who God loves and doesn't love. God loves everyone; Jesus died for everyone.



Matthew 11:28-30: (NASB) ²⁸*Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

How does Jesus draw us and what does he expect for us once we are drawn?



Do we know someone who has had (heterosexual) sex outside of marriage? Do we shun them and look at them like they are a gross individual? And yet this sin is on par with homosexuality and our own sins. We have to remember that Jesus didn't shun the sinners. He preached to them and loved them, and that is what we are called to do. We have to have compassion even though we personally live by a different standard.


Homosexuality is not a "different" sin from the rest of them in a category all its own. There are lots of sins deemed "abominations," including sinning against the Holy Spirit and idolatry. (See Proverbs 6:16-19: seven things are listed as an abomination, including sowing discord among the brethren. In Proverbs 12:22: Lying lips are an abomination. There are others as well...)

Does the rest of the New Testament condemn gay relationships?

Let's start with the Apostle Paul in Romans:

Romans 1:18-23: (NASB) ¹⁸*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.*

Who are those spoken of in these verses? Verse 18 - **all** ungodly and unrighteous. What follows is a very sweeping indictment of all who are outside of God's favor. Paul is saying that whatever we do or think that is not ultimately in praise of God is idolatry.

 **We had to leave the ministry (two men fall in love after preaching against it), Exodus Founder, Michael Bussee, youtube.com**

- *We couldn't come out to each other about our feelings...and the internal tension became so bad we couldn't keep up saying we were "ex-gay" because we both realized we had fallen in love with each other. We decided that we really had a responsibility to stop calling ourselves "ex-gay" and leave the ministry and we did in 1979.*

Romans 1:24-25: (NASB) ²⁴*Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

Worshipping and serving the creature rather than the Creator...this is idolatry, plain and simple. The first commandment: Thou shalt have no other gods before me. It is very damaging to live such a life.



We left our families and moved in, Exodus Founder, Michael Bussee, youtube.com

- Gary had three children by that time and loved his wife. I had my daughter who was three years old at the time and loved my wife and daughter. And we knew that we would have to leave the church. We were rejected by the church, we lost all of our friends and our support group. We lost basically everybody. We moved in together and held a commitment ceremony, exchanged rings and he and I went on to live quietly and stayed out of the whole "ex-gay" controversy.

If you are gay or straight, leaving a marriage covenant for someone else is the greater sin. They made a covenant before God and left. The act of homosexuality is in the same category as a heterosexual leaving their marriage for someone else. Breaking a sacred covenant is part of a larger issue, not just homosexuality.

Romans 1:26-27: (NASB) ²⁶For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, ²⁷and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

There are certain things that we shouldn't do, according to God's word. It doesn't matter what your sexual orientation is.

Sin affects each of us very differently. I have difficulties you don't have and vice-versa. We both need to overcome different things and sometimes we can't change the way we are. But we have to learn to live with who we are in a God-honoring fashion.

The argument has been used that "sexual orientation," or what is "natural" was not understood in Biblical times, meaning that Paul is speaking about heterosexual people committing homosexual acts in these scriptures. Actually, the opposite is true - because there was no "sexual orientation" as a platform to comment from, Paul would here be pointing back to that which is "natural" - the original state of man and women. Paul here condemns acts of idolatry, not orientation - any sex outside of marriage is idolatrous... See the Bonus Material at the end of this CQ Rewind Full Edition for more on this.



Be warned - do NOT sit in the seat of judgment on these things!!

Romans 2:1-3: (NASB) ¹Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. ²And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. ³But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11: (KJV) ⁹Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were



some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

- There are many categories of things that will keep us out of the Kingdom - not just homosexuality.
- "...and such were some of you." Some true Christians had previously done these things. We can't continue to act on our natural propensities that are against the will of God.
- The early Christians stopped what they were doing, were forgiven, washed, sanctified and were then faithful.
- There is a double standard presented here - the standard of higher living for those called to spirituality.

(Source: Wikipedia) Abusers of themselves with mankind = The word *arsenokoitēs* (ἀρσενικοίτης) has challenged scholars for centuries, and has been variously rendered as "abusers of themselves with mankind" (KJV), "sodomites" (YLT), or "men who practice homosexuality."...It is likely that *arsenokoitēs* is taken from the Septuagint (LXX) reading of Leviticus 20:13 where the root forms (Greek ἄρσεν / ἄρσεν [arrhēn / arsēn] and κοίτην [koitēn] both appear. Paul's use of the word in 1 Corinthians is the earliest example of the term; its only other use is in a similar list of wrongdoers given (probably by the same author) in 1 Timothy 1:9-10.

At CQ, do we support gay marriage? No. But we tolerate gay marriage because it is within the laws of the land. We believe there has to be a standard we abide by but need to deal with and tolerate those things that are legal. We can be respectful and yet disagree. We live in a time where there a lot of laws we don't personally like, but we need to be respectful of them because they are laws. Live your life according to the standard that you believe is the higher standard. Learn to be tolerant of those things around us.

Just because someone is gay does *not* mean they are "bad." Just because someone lives with their heterosexual partner doesn't mean they are bad. However, they are not living according to the standard Jesus wants us to live by. If we want to be a dedicated Christian following Christ, then we need to rise above the things of this earth.

For example, If we lived in a land that allowed slavery, we would respect the law of the land but would not have slaves. We would not participate in it and would speak out against it wherever it was possible and appropriate to do so. We can be under the law but not be supportive of it. There is God-given mercy on those that do not agree, but we are not to be the judge because we are all sinners. We believe that all will be resurrected - gay or straight - because Jesus died for all.

God sets the standards of behavior in His laws, yet He has created man with free will, able to choose good or evil. It allows us to experience the consequences of our choices because He sees that experience is the best teacher. God's laws were made for man's best happiness. He is so far above us and created us with love.



What happens when we try to govern ourselves? Idolatry takes root because we are following the creature rather than the Creator.

Our Emotions hide our Ethics:

Our emotions drive us rather than a standard.

Our seeking of Pleasures overpowers our following of

Principles: When we get involved in such things, it is only a downward course. King David is a good example of this, relying on his own thinking.

The fulfilling of our Desires buries our focus on our

Discipline: Our personal desires take over the discipline of keeping things in check in following after Jesus.

Our Feelings about things override our Faith:

Sometimes we feel like things are right but it contradicts when faith says is right. So there is a decision to be made.

Our Circumstances cause us to question our Conviction:

Because circumstances change doesn't mean our conviction ought to change.

Luke 9:23-24: (NASB) ²³And he was saying to them all, If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

Jesus is saying that we need to be able to deny ourselves in order to follow him.

Self-denial is different for each of us!

- Is it a difficult task of self-denial to ask someone to give up chocolate if they don't even like it?
- Is it a difficult task of self-denial to ask someone to curb their anger when they are naturally calm and non-reactive?
- Is it a difficult task of self-denial to ask someone to put away the "toys" in their life when they don't really have any?
- Is it a difficult task of self-denial to ask someone to monitor their words about others when their natural propensity is to always speak kindly?
- Is it a difficult task of self-denial to ask someone to refrain from sex who has a very low sex drive? NO! The problem is, because our world is so



overly sexualized, we are programmed to believe that sex is a must in all cases...

Self-denial is the ability to put down that with which we struggle. For each of us, that list will be very different.

Living the gay lifestyle is not condoned accordingly to Scripture. Neither is living with your girlfriend if you are male. The point is all of us have things we need to deal with. Our job is to be compassionate, kind, and understanding and scriptural when we deal with all of these things. We want to be encouraging and helpful every step of the way.

*So should we support gay marriage...?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



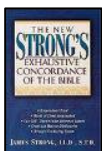
*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*

Back to the Romans Scriptures, for a closer look:

Romans 1:20-27: (NIV) ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen. ²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged **natural relations** for **unnatural** ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned **natural relations** with women and were inflamed with **lust** for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Natural: Strongs #5446 phusikos (foo-see-kos'); "physical", i.e. (by implication) instinctive: KJV-- natural.

Relations: Strongs #5540 chresis (khray'-sis); from 5530; employment, i.e. (specifically) sexual intercourse (as an occupation of the body): KJV-- use.



(Un)Natural: Strongs #5449 phusis (foo'-sis); growth (by germination or expansion), i.e. (by implication) natural production (lineal descent); by extension, a genus or sort; figuratively, native disposition, constitution or usage: KJV-- ([man-]) kind, nature ([-al]).

Lust: (this is the only use of this word in the New testament) Strongs #3715 orexis (or'-ex-is); excitement of the mind, i.e. longing after: KJV-- lust.



Strong's #5449 (KJV) some uses: These give us the sense of natural being the big picture of what is natural and not an individualized picture of what we may say is natural for me.

Romans 2:14: (KJV) *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by **nature** the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

Romans 2:27: (KJV) *And shall not uncircumcision which is by **nature**, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?*

Romans 11:21: (KJV) *For if God spared not the **natural** branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.*

Romans 11:24: (KJV) *For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by **nature**, and wert grafted contrary to **nature** into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the **natural** branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?*

Back to 1 Corinthians 6 for a deeper look:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11: (KJV) *⁹Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

Fornicator: Strong's #4205 pornos (por'-nos); a (male) prostitute (as venal), i.e. (by analogy) a debauchee (libertine): KJV-- fornicator, whoremonger.

Idolator: Strong's #1496 eidololatreis (i-do-lol-at'-race); an image- servant or) worshipper (literally or figuratively): KJV-- idolater.

Adulterer: Strong's #3432 moichos (moy-khos'); a (male) paramour; figuratively, apostate: KJV-- adulterer.

Effeminate: Strong's #3120 malakos (mal-ak-os'); of uncertain affinity; soft, i.e. fine (clothing); figuratively, a catamite: KJV-- effeminate, soft.

Abusers of themselves with mankind: Strong's #733 arsenokoites (ar-sen-ok-oy'-tace); a sodomite, used in 1 Timothy 1:9-10: KJV-- abuser of (that defiles self) with mankind.

Here again the apostle is being direct relating to behavior. His list is one of moral decay. It is one of broad strokes. While some may argue about the meanings of some of the words, the intent is very clear: Our actions can keep us out of the Kingdom of God. Paul in no way deals with someone's "orientation" here, rather he is clear on the high moral standard to keep us on the right track.

1 Timothy 1:9-10: (KJV) *⁹Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, ¹⁰For whoremongers, **for them that defile themselves with mankind**, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine...*

