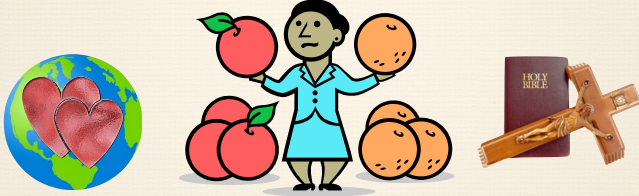


Many Evangelical Christians are caught between two spiritual virtues

“holy homophobia.”

“Christian heretic.”



Four critical questions

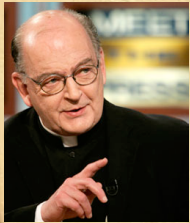
Last week

1. Is homosexuality about action or attraction?
2. Is homosexuality a curse depicting the Fall of humanity or is it just about a small group with “Same Sex Attraction” (SSA)?

This week

3. When should private morality drive public (social / legal) policy? How do we balance individual freedom and the general welfare?
4. Is the homosexual issue reflecting a bigger and deeper theological issue?

Richard John Neuhaus



“In the gay community, it would seem, the maxim is: love the sin and love the sinner, but hate anyone who calls it a sin or him a sinner”

Yes, I am a Christian.

I believe the Bible.

I do not support homosexual acts or “homosexual marriage.”

Yes, I still love you.

Yes, we are still friends.

No, I am not condemning you to hell.

No, I will not let anyone bully you.

But realize that name-calling and stereotyping those of us who stand for what we believe is exactly what you don’t want done to you. We have a right to speak what we believe, same as you have a right to speak what you believe.

3. When should private morality drive public (social / legal) policy? How do we balance individual freedom and the general welfare?

Are there any good reasons, other than religious doctrine, that homosexual behavior should be resisted, or at least discouraged in public life?

Religious freedom vs. Civil rights

- a. A bakery run by a conservative Christian is asked to make a cake for a gay wedding.
- b. EXODUS asks a gay community center to host a promotional event (including testimonials).
- c. JEWS FOR JESUS asks a Jewish bakery to cater an evangelistic rally in the community.

Matthew 22:21

"Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's."

**Rendering to Caesar
may seem like a
compromise to
Pharisees.**

**Rendering to God
as distinct from
Caesar may seem
like a copout to
Puritans.**

**The challenge is to be in the world
but not of the world.**

1 Corinthians 5:9-10

"I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world."

**How much
association are we
to have with those
who do not share
our moral values?**

**What kind of
association are we
to have with those
who do not share
our moral values?**

**Reasons certain moral behaviors
should be permitted and yet
discouraged in a pluralistic society:**

**Religious
teaching &
tradition**



**Political
correctness**

The preamble to the U.S. Constitution says
our government is to

**"promote
the general welfare."**

**Reasons certain moral behaviors
should be permitted and yet
discouraged in a pluralistic society:**

**Religious
teaching &
tradition**



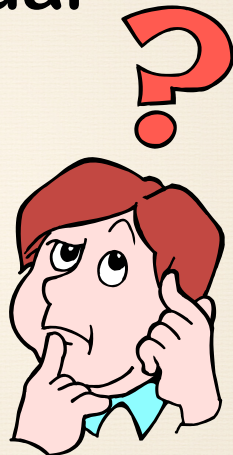
**Political
correctness**



**"We do not promote
nor prosecute
certain behaviors."**



**Is homosexual
behavior
a general
welfare
issue?**



Is it a political issue?

"AIDS is the only disease in history which has been treated politically and not medically, merely because of its incredible lobbying efforts. These lobbyists try to obscure the fact that most of those with AIDS are professing and practicing bisexuals, homosexuals, or drug users who will not take responsibility for their own actions. Behavior accounts for over ninety percent of those with AIDS. Yet, it is treated like a plague, which just dropped out of the sky and affects poor, innocent people who have no responsibility for its acquisition. AIDS receives more funding (\$9.9 billion annually) than cancer research (\$5.1 billion), while a host of other diseases, many of which have been around a long time and are not behavior-related, are left with very little funding to find cures."

Cal Thomas

Is it natural?

Romans 1:26 “exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural”

The same language is used by non Christian authors in denouncing homosexual acts

- Plato (300 BC) *Laws* 1.636C
- Philo (AD 40) *Special Laws* 3.37-39
- Josephus (AD 70) *Against Apion* 2.273-75
- Plutarch (AD 100) *Moralia, Dialogue on Love* 751 D-E

Is “natural” defined by what “feels” normal for me or by what is healthy given my created purpose?

There are many things that “seem” natural to some - pedophilia, promiscuity, honor killing, hatred, revenge, racism, sexism, etc.

In 1974, 55% of the members of the American Psychiatric Association voted to remove homosexuality from the category of conditions, which are in themselves pathological or diseased.

This change took place because of:

- 1) intense gay activists protests against the APA convention in San Francisco (1970-71).
- 2) the “scientific” work of Alfred Kinsey.
- 3) the desire to address social injustice to the gay population.
- 4) a change in the definition of normal sexual adaptation.

A 1977 poll of 10,000 psychiatrists noted, however, that 69% of those approached still answered “yes” to the question, “Is homosexuality usually a pathological adaptation?” (18% answered no, 13% uncertain).

Dr. Stanton L. Jones

(Provost and professor of psychology at Wheaton College)



“I would not regard homosexuality to be a psychopathology in the same sense as schizophrenia or phobic disorders. But neither can it be viewed as a normal ‘lifestyle variation’ on a par with being introverted versus extroverted.”

Is it healthy?

Mark Regnerus

Sociologist at U.T. Austin Texas
New Family Structures Study



1. His research came to three conclusions.

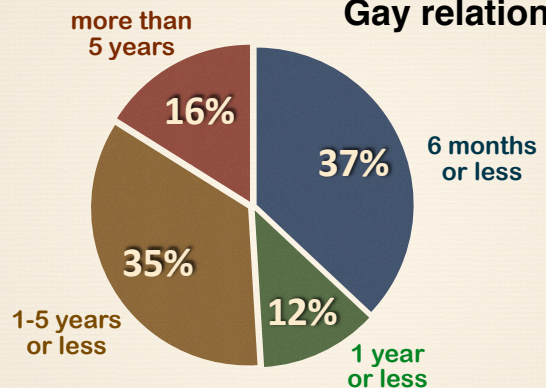
- **There is reason for concern that the welfare of children reared in same sex households may be compromised.**
- **Gender matters in parenting.**
- **More study is needed before we rush to political conclusions.**

2. His research was peer-reviewed and published in a leading sociological journal - *Social Science Research*, **but has been attacked and rejected by the APA and others.**

3. Some of his findings of children raised by lesbian couples.

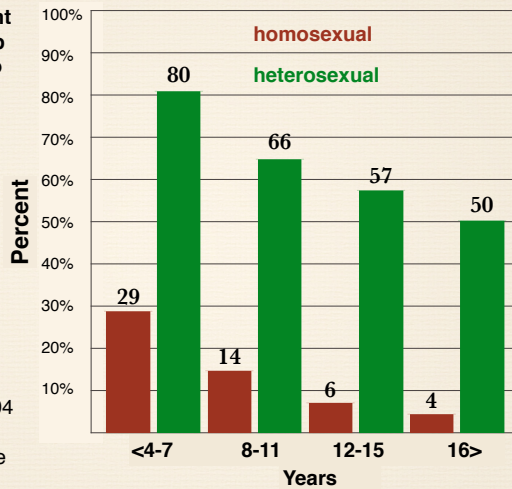
- **35% more likely to fail a grade.**
- **70% needed social services** (general population 17%).
- **50% needed public welfare assistance** (g.p. 10%).
- **27% sexually violated** (g.p. 8%).
- **40% unemployed** (g.p. 6%).
- **Report a negative view of their childhood.**

How stable are Gay relationships?



(National Center in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research).
Washington Times - July 11, 2003

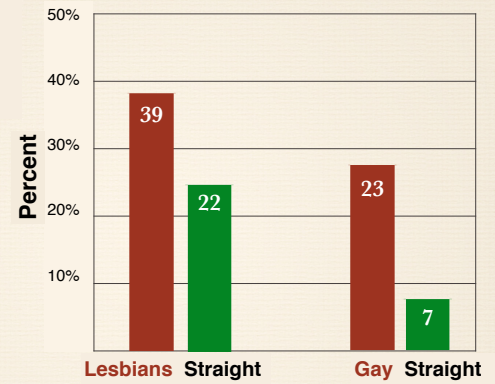
Length of current gay relationship as compared to heterosexual (Years to date)



Source: 2003-2004 Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census

How civil are homosexual relationships?

Comparison of Intimate Partner Violence



Source: "Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence," U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs, 30.

- The life expectancy of a gay male in America is shortened by 20 years (without factoring in HIV).

R. S. Hogg, S. A. Strathdee, et al.,
"Modeling the Impact of HIV Disease on Mortality in Gay and Bisexual Men,"
International Journal of Epidemiology, 26(3): 657-661, p. 659

- Depression is 7 times more likely among male homosexuals and suicide is 6 times more likely as compared to the control group.

(Hallfors, D., Waller, M., Ford, C., Halpern, C., Brodish, P., Iritani, B., (2004) Adolescent Depression and Suicide Risk: Association with Sex and Drug Behavior. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 27(3), 224-231)

- 75% of general population believe homosexuality is wrong but that homosexuals should have equal rights in the work place.

- 75% of gay men have had sex with more than 100 partners,
- 43% with more than 500,
- 28% with more than 1,000
- 79% say that half of those partners are total strangers, and 70% of those sexual contacts are one night stands.

Bell AP, Weinberg ML. New York, N.Y.: Simon and Schuster;1978.
Homosexualities: a Study of Diversity among Men and Women.

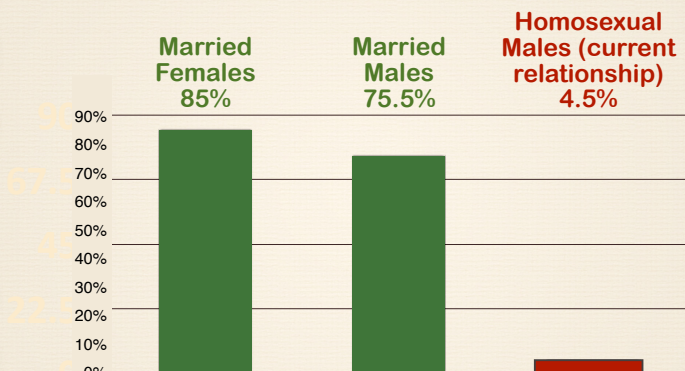
- 73% of gay men have had sex with boys under 19 years of age.

Jay and Young. *The Gay Report*. Summit Books, 1979, p. 275

- Monogamy in gay marriage is rare (a distinction between emotional fidelity and sexual exclusivity is common).

Harold N Miller <http://members.aol.com/gaymatter/monog.htm>

How monogamous are gay relationships?



The Social Organization of Sexuality, 216; McWhirter and Mattison, *The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop* (1984): 252-253; Wiederman, "Extramarital Sex," 170.

Andrew Sullivan
Virtually Normal, homosexual commentator



"There is more likely to be greater understanding of the need for extramarital outlets between two men than between a man and a woman."

In the context of studying HIV risk behavior among young homosexual men in the Netherlands (the first country in the world to legalize homosexual civil "marriage"), the researchers found that :

1. **homosexual men who were in partnered relationships had an average of 8 sexual partners per year outside of the primary relationship.**
2. **those without a "permanent" partner had an average of 22 sexual partners per year.**

Maria Xiridou, et al, "The Contribution of Steady and Casual Partnerships to the Incidence of HIV Infection among Homosexual Men in Amsterdam," AIDS 17 (2003): 1031.

Meredith May, "Many gay couples negotiate open relationships," San Francisco Chronicle, July 16, 2010; online at: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/07/16/DD4C1EDP1A.DTL>

4. Is the homosexual issue reflecting a bigger and deeper theological issue?

Will gay marriage be enough?

Is the real issue "sexual idolatry?"

Galatians 5

"¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these,"

Where do we look for life apart from God?

Sexual fulfillment	immorality, impurity, sensuality,
Spiritual enlightenment	idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing,
Social status	

Many people who are passionate about sexual freedom are **fighting for their hope of life** - human fulfillment and wholeness.

We live in a generation that has cast its lot (in the quest for life) with:

- ✓ **sexual fulfillment**
- ✓ **spiritual enlightenment**
- ✓ **social status**

But it has confused the creation with the Creator and in seeking life apart from God it has lost it.

What should Christian do?

1. **Support the legal rights** (as American citizens) of all people including gays.
2. **Encourage** open, respectful, debate on public policy with respect to competing values.
 - Affirm the **necessity** of and **unavoidable tension** between competing moral values in our system.
 - **Work together** for creative compromises that respect all sides as much as possible.
 - Let the "**general welfare**" be a driving rationale in public policy.
3. **Engage** the gay community with humility, sensitivity, reason, and love.

John 8:7

"He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."

The Pharisees saw

Jesus saw

Sinner

Image of God