

## **Biblical Answers to Loaded Questions**

By James Moriello

Those who have the agenda of getting everyone to accept and celebrate sinful homosexual behavior are pursuing their goal in several different ways. One of these ways is by presenting loaded questions to faithful Bible-believing Christians who affirm God's position that such behavior is sinful and unrighteous, and that marriage is an institution of God defined as the union between one man and one woman (Leviticus 18:22; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5). Christians should be alert to some of the questions that may come up, and be educated in presenting a biblically informed response to them. It is good for us to be familiar with them, since people such as Matthew Vines are out in the world, and in the professing church, twisting words to advance an ungodly agenda. Mr. Vines has posed many of these questions publicly on internet blogs such as that on the "Religion News Service". The seven questions below are his, and the responses are mine.

1. Do you accept that sexual orientation is not a choice? I do not accept this premise. Homosexual behavior is against nature (Romans 1:26-27). God does not set people up with temptations to fall prey to sin that cannot be overcome (James 1:13).
2. Do you accept that sexual orientation is highly resistant to attempts to change it? Confusion about one's sexuality is not of God (James 1:13). Sinful desires, especially sexual desires, can be powerfully ensnaring (Hebrews 12:1). However, with the help of Jesus Christ, one can overcome even the most difficult trials and temptations (1 Corinthians 10:13). Ungodly lifestyles can be changed with the help of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
3. How many meaningful relationships with LGBT people do you have? This is a loaded question. There is no such thing as a "LGBT person". The term assumes that God has created someone that way, which is the opposite of what the Bible teaches.
4. Do you accept that lifelong celibacy is the only valid option for most gay people if all same-sex relationships are sinful? No. The two valid options are celibacy and heterosexual marriage. Through finding a relationship with God through Jesus, through prayer, with the aid of Christian counsel, and therapy, it is possible for one to overcome sinful proclivities.
5. Do you believe that same-sex couples' relationships can show the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? No, not in the biblical sense. The sinful works of the flesh cannot produce the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:19-24). We are called to crucify fleshly sinful desires, not justify them. This question borders on blasphemy. Sinful behavior can never produce godly results.

6. Do you believe that it is possible to be a Christian and support same-sex marriage in the church? Theoretically, it is possible, if an individual supports it out of ignorance of the Bible's views and teachings. In the vast majority of instances, the answer is an emphatic "No". The Bible teaches that that lifestyle is an immoral lifestyle characteristic of unsaved people (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Furthermore, those professing Christians and churches who support and approve of ungodly lifestyles are compounding the sin, and are seen by God as guilty themselves (Romans 1:32).
7. Do you think supporting same-sex marriage is a more serious problem than supporting slavery? This is comparing apples and oranges, and is an attempt to entrap the respondent. First of all, the "gay-rights" movement is different than the "civil-rights along racial lines" movement. Race is inherent, and is not sinful, for God creates people a certain way. Engaging in behavior that God calls sinful is not inherent, for people are not created set up to fail and fall to sin (James 1:13). Nobody is advocating slavery today. The issue here is not slavery, but sinful same-sex behavior. Let's stick to the issue.

At this point, I should like to answer some common questions that I am asked.

1. Would you officiate a "same-sex" wedding? No, because that would violate my sincerely held belief that marriage is God's institution between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5).
2. Is your opposition to "same-sex" relationships bigoted and discriminatory? No. To the contrary, it is in the spirit of love, because it affirms God's truth, which is in the best interest of all people (John 8:31-32). I love people enough to tell them the truth. People pleasers will twist God's Word and approve lies because of fear of men. I fear God more than men.
3. Should I attend a "same-sex" ceremony? No, not under any circumstances should a Christian attend or participate in such an affront to God's institution of marriage and/or natural order between the two sexes (Ephesians 5:3-12; Romans 1:32).
4. Why do Bible-believing Christians participate in marriage ceremonies of an unbelieving man and woman, but not "same-sex" ceremonies? There is no moral equivalency between the two. The first is a natural union which is in accord with God's covenant of marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5). The second is based upon unnatural sinful behavior, and is inconsistent with the divinely prescribed definition of marriage (Romans 1:26-.27).