

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

Session 1: Homosexuality

March 8, 2023

Promise and Expectation

PROMISE:

- An honest examination of topic and related scriptures
- Discuss opinions, but focus on scripture
- Goal: study what the Bible actually says; gain understanding, not agreement

Promise and Expectation

EXPECTATION:

- Respectful attitudes in discussions
- An openness to learn; not assuming we already know
- Earnest desires to seek God's will, not affirm our own preconceived opinions

Three Primary Questions

1. What are the questions society and Christians are asking about homosexuality?
2. What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?
3. What is an appropriate response or perspective for Christians?

Why talk about homosexuality?

- Divisive – major Protestant denominations have been struggling for past few decades
- Sensitive – discussing sex; very intimate; difficult to talk about; related to our views on marriage and family
- Personal – faith issue; involves our view of the Bible and or relationship with God; strong and deep convictions and feelings

Questions being asked about Homosexuality

- What is homosexuality? Is it a sin?
- Is a person born gay or do life experiences influence someone to become gay?
- Can a Christian be gay?
- Can homosexual persons be active members of the church?
- What else?

Defining Homosexuality

- What does it mean to say that someone is homosexual?
 - confused about gender?
 - attraction to others of same sex?
 - sexually active with person(s) of same sex?
- *Sometimes "gay" and "homosexuality" mean different things to different people*

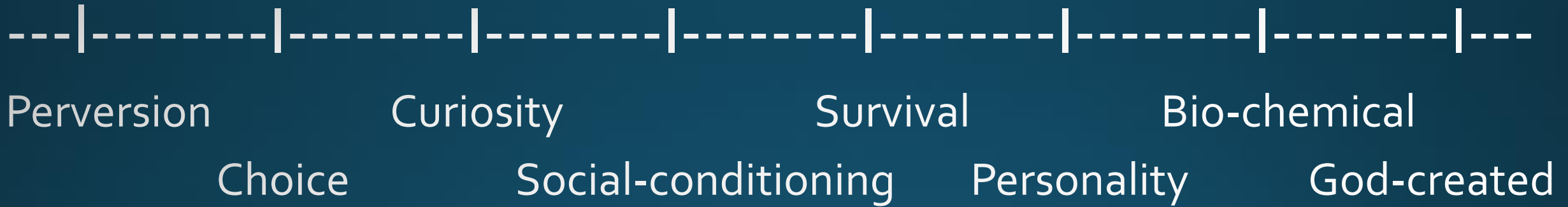
Homosexuality does not mean

- **Promiscuity** – indiscriminate sexual behavior; both homosexual and heterosexual people can be promiscuous
- **Transgender** - someone whose gender identity or gender expression does not correspond with their sex assigned at birth
- **Cross-dressing** – not directly related to homosexuality

Attraction/Inclination

- Most scholars agree that there is no biblical passage that speaks about being attracted to a person of the same gender is a sin
- Bible is very clear in several places about the sin of lust; lust is clearly sinful
- The Bible talks about homosexuality as behavior/activity

Why are some attracted to others of same gender?



Resources used for this study

- (Kevin and Logan list and share resources)

Scripture Passages

Old Testament

- Genesis 19:1-29
- Leviticus 18:22
- Leviticus 20:13

New Testament

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- 1 Timothy 1:10
- Romans 1:18-32
- Acts 15:28-29