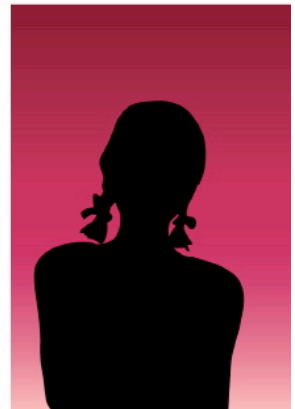
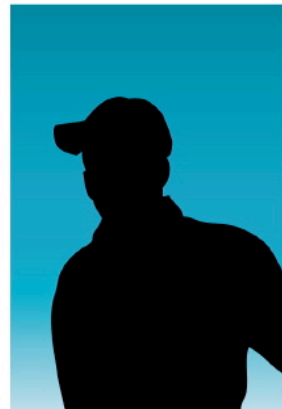
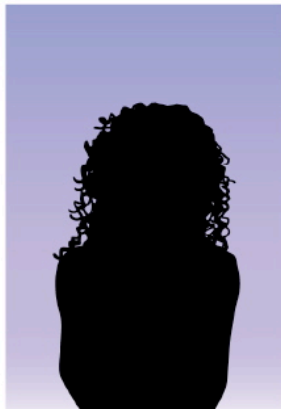
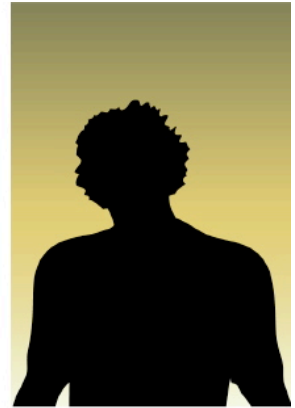
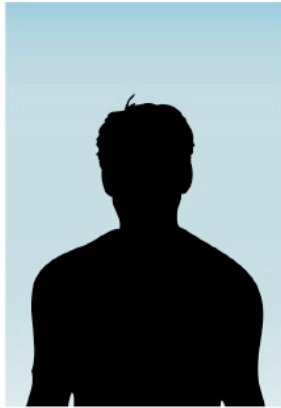


Does God Love All People?

In a world of ever-changing norms, who knows what's right or wrong?



<http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist-gmba.org/SSP/SSP.html>

By Brother Jonathan Scolaro

- with input from the GMBA officers

“If God says homosexuality is wrong, why did He make people that way?” “Homosexuals aren’t hurting anyone else, so what’s wrong with that?” “If two people really love each other, so what if they’re the same gender?”

Sound familiar? If you’re like me and have ever told a friend that you think homosexuality is wrong, chances are they gasped in disbelief and sent one of these questions your way.

Let me just begin by saying that this article *is not* a rant against homosexuals. It’s just that in a country that has gone from a majority of people opposing homosexual marriage to

supporting it, where LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual) clubs are typical at your average high school, and where elementary school kids are taught it’s normal to have two mommies, it can be pretty confusing to hear people at church say that LGBT lifestyles are wrong when outsiders say the exact opposite. This is especially true when there’s always a hilarious “token homosexual” in every new movie or TV show or if you’ve got LGBT coworkers, LGBT friends, or even LGBT relatives who are genuinely nice, caring people.

So who do you listen to? Can homosexuality really be wrong if it’s so mainstream? Is the old “churchy”

way of thinking just too old-fashioned? What are we supposed to believe?

What God Thinks

So, to begin, just remember that when talking about homosexuality, my opinion really doesn’t matter. (Can you believe I just said that?!) Your friends’ opinions really don’t matter either—or your teachers’ opinions at school or the opinion of the President of the United States. (Am I crazy, or what?) In reality, the only opinion that really matters is *God’s opinion*. It’s true. The only thing that really matters is what God thinks.

So what does God think? Well,

according to the Bible, it seems pretty clear that sex between two people of the same gender is a big no-no. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9, Leviticus 18:22, and Romans 1:27.

But, as seems to be the case nowadays, most people don't seem to care what God thinks. As it says in Isaiah 5:20, "*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*" In other words, what God says is good is seen as bad, and what God says is bad is seen as good.

This good-to-bad bad-to-good switch doesn't just go for homosexuality. Think about it. Did you realize that in the U.S. the majority of babies born to women under 30 are now born out of wedlock? Fifty years ago, to have a baby outside of marriage would have been shocking, even humiliating. Now it's normal. In fact, you're laughed at if you wait to have sex with someone until you're married. People see that as foolish, shortsighted, and old-fashioned. While times have drastically changed, God's standards haven't. Just because everyone says it's OK doesn't make it true. In fact, fornication is spoken against many times in the New Testament alone (Matt. 15:19; 1 Cor. 6:18; Gal. 5:19; 1 Thes. 4:3).

Baby, I Was Born This Way

Lady Gaga sings, "...*God makes no mistakes. I'm on the right track, baby, I was born this way,*" and later on, "*No matter gay, straight or bi, Lesbian, transgendered life—I'm on the right track, baby, I was born to survive.*" She, like so many other people, asks why God would let people be born with homosexual feelings if it's supposedly wrong. It just doesn't make sense, right?

It can be pretty confusing to hear people at church say that homosexuality is wrong when many others say the exact opposite

I'm not here to argue whether or not people are born LGBT, but let's just pause and take a look at what God's Word has to say about being born a certain way. If you're born with certain feelings, are these feelings always good? The Apostle Paul says, "*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing*" (Romans 7:18). The prophet Abinadi also says that after the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, all mankind became "*carnal, sensual, devilish, knowing evil from good, subjecting themselves to the devil*" (Mosiah 16:3-4).

In other words, everybody is born with sinful feelings of some sort. Some feelings are universal (anger, lust, revenge, jealousy)

and some are individual (predispositions to alcoholism, depression, or paranoia). Let's face it, nobody's perfect. We're all born messed up in some way—that's why we need God's redemption and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Once we decide to follow God, we spend our lives striving to be more like Him. So, being "born that way" doesn't really make something OK in God's sight.

Picking on LGBT People

Please don't think I'm just picking on homosexuals when I talk this way. Heterosexuals who ignore God's rules are just as guilty. *Any* sexual behavior outside of God's plan is sinful. That includes having sex with someone before you're married (fornication) or having multiple partners when married (adultery). Really, it's no surprise that LGBT couples demand the same "rights" as heterosexuals who go around doing whatever they want. LGBT couples could very well say, "If straight people ignore God's rules, then why can't we?"

Does God Love Homosexuals?

When we interact with LGBT people on a daily basis, how are we supposed to treat them? How are we supposed to act? Easy answer. Exactly as Jesus Christ would act: with love. You see, *of course* God loves LGBT people. God loves everybody!

However, God *does not* love the sins that we commit. When Jesus met a woman who was caught in adultery, after He forgave her He told her, "Go and sin no more"

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(John 8:1-11). So, God does not love LGBT behaviors, just like He doesn't love the other sins that we all struggle with.

So, although I never go smearing it in people's faces, I'm not ashamed to say that I do believe that homosexuality is wrong. However, I treat LGBT people just like I treat everyone else that I meet, with kindness and consideration. I've known some very fine people in my life who are homosexual, just like I've known fine people who have other issues they deal with.

The last thing someone like this needs is ridicule or judgment from others. We need to lift each other up spiritually in love

In fact, I have heard of some very fine LGBT Christians who vowed celibacy rather than sin, just as I have known of some very fine heterosexual Christians who have vowed celibacy (if single) or monogamy (if married) rather than sin. Everyone has a cross to bear. Even if it comes down to earthly love itself, everyone has a sacrifice to make in keeping the commandments of God and Christ. These sacrifices are pleasing to God. Any sacrifice we make pales in comparison to the sacrifice Christ made for us. Following His commandments is only our reasonable service.

Love Without Limits

Let me add some final perspective. For those people who

believe in God and know that homosexuality is wrong, yet still struggle with that temptation, I cannot even begin to imagine how frustrating, confusing, or painful it must be. I'm sure we all can agree that the last thing someone like this needs is ridicule or judgment from others. They don't need to be treated as different, outsiders, or strangers. Honestly, we all struggle with personal sins, so we're all in the same boat together! We need to lift each other up spiritually in love and prayer so that God helps us overcome those temptations.

Several years ago, I had a friend who was openly homosexual, yet he was not a happy person. Homosexuality was just the start of a long list of things that he wasn't proud of. Unbeknownst to me, one morning, my friend prayed to God asking Him to help change his life. The next day, I unexpectedly invited my friend to a church event. He absolutely loved it—he even broke down crying during a service. Why did he love it? Nobody knew anything about him; they just unconditionally showered him with love. My friend attended church numerous times until he moved out of state and, unfortunately, we lost contact.

The lesson I learned from this experience is that I should be praying for opportunities to share Jesus Christ and His Church (The Church of Jesus Christ) with everyone, regardless of their background. The crazy thing was before my friend came to church, he knew that I thought

homosexuality was wrong, but he was still my friend anyway. Interestingly, I turned out to be the person that God sent to him in his hour of need.

So, don't be afraid or ashamed to stand up for your beliefs. Meanwhile, pray that God allows you to show His love to others, whether LGBT, straight, or whatever.

Who Are We?

The Student Support Program is here to create and uphold a support network among young people in the Church. (That's you!)

We do this by sharing encouraging, thought provoking media resources to promote involvement in the Church and to strengthen our walk with Jesus Christ.

What Do We Do?

SSP Newsletters. That's what you're reading right now. See more at

http://issuu.com/ssp_gmba



SSP Facebook Group.

Like us and get connected to all types of articles, videos, and posts to get you through your day. It's healthier than coffee.



Instagram. Get inspirational messages, scriptures, and photos of your across-country friends.

Why?

Because you're important.