

Male Bonding Gone Wrong

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 HCSB Flee from sexual immorality! "Every sin a person can commit is outside the body," but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body. (19) Do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, (20) for you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

God designed men to be the natural defenders of the home. Don't get me wrong – I've seen some great female warriors in my day. I've had my head handed to me by some great female warriors! Nevertheless, any female has to work three times harder to achieve the same effect a man can reach naturally and easily. It's how we're built. It's how God made us. It was Barak that was supposed to lead the army into battle, not Deborah, and he got rebuked for forgetting that.

I'm not just talking about our larger frame or our ratio of body to muscle. We are chemically and neurologically wired to defend our kin. There are two sides to that neurochemical wiring that I like to call "tend and defend".

The journal called *Science* recently put out an article that suggests that the same hormone that underlies the feelings we get that we identify as "love" is the same hormone released in soldiers who feel united with each other against the enemy.

The study demonstrates that the chemical oxytocin not only plays a role in modulating cooperation and benevolence but also drives aggression. You see, that which you love, you will defend against all comers.

This principle is critical in understanding Yahweh. Understanding Him is critical to understanding right thought and behavior. Emphasizing only one aspect of God's character to the exclusion of others does not give an accurate assessment. We cannot view God as loving without also invoking His holy standard for living. We cannot see Him as a Holy Judge without also invoking His compassion for human frailty. The apostle John tells us,

- **1 John 4:16 HCSB** And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

However, that must be balanced by David's statement,

- **Psalms 99:9 HCSB** Exalt the LORD our God; bow in worship at His holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.

The point I am trying to make is that too much focus on one aspect of anything, whether in humans or in God, will generally lead to false views and bad behavior. Can men love each other? Absolutely. Can the passion they feel for each other even exceed the love they normally feel for women? Absolutely. Can that feeling be holy? Absolutely.

Turn if you would to

- **2 Samuel 1:26 HCSB** I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother. You were such a friend to me. Your love for me was more wonderful than the love of a woman *for me*.

David and Jonathan were both powerful warriors. They were men who stood out in a group of mighty men. They were men other lesser, weaker men feared. Nevertheless, they loved each other deeply.

The problem is when men briefly experience that kind of passion (usually in their youth) and because society tells them that men cannot love each other that way, they are confused. Their decision as to what to do with that feeling can lead to two completely different results. Because society degrades men to mere sexual creatures and repeatedly spreads the gospel of sexual gratification, some men rebel to the first message, cling to the second message and choose the homosexual identity. Others accept the first message, reject the second message

and grow up suppressing all feelings of love and loyalty to other men and live miserable lives focused only on the kind of sexual love that men generally feel toward women – but unfortunately even that is tainted by their mistaken beliefs.

He-man-woman-hater on one side and effete, flamboyant homosexual on the other; each is a mistake. The mistake is in conflating love with sex. Men, you can love one another without it being a sexual thing.

I want you to remember something:

The Scriptures never forbid what we cannot control.

The Scriptures never command what we cannot accomplish.

Homosexual behavior is sinful.

- [Leviticus 18:22 HCSB](#) You are not to sleep with a man as with a woman; it is detestable.
- [Leviticus 20:13 HCSB](#) If a man sleeps with a man as with a woman, they have both committed an abomination. They must be put to death; their blood is on their own hands.

Homosexual temptation however is not a sin.

- [Hebrews 4:15 HCSB](#) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin.

If the temptation was sin, then Jesus would be the greatest sinner of all time because He was tested in every way as we are, yet the Scriptures are categorical in their repeated assessment that He was without sin.

Many will argue that they can't help how they feel. Let's just say that's true. Just because you feel something doesn't mean you must yield to it. If I feel lust for a woman who is not my wife, should I act upon that urge? If I feel covetousness for something my neighbor has, must I yield to that? See, that is the danger of the world's message "if it feels good do it." It leads to anarchy. It leads to harming others.

Homosexuality is NOT natural.

- [Romans 1:26-27 HCSB](#) This is why God delivered them over to degrading passions. For even their females exchanged natural sexual intercourse for what is unnatural. (27) The males in the same way also left natural sexual intercourse with females and were inflamed in their lust for one another. Males committed shameless acts with males and received in their own persons the appropriate penalty for their perversion.

There is no science to support a "gay gene". Homosexuality is behavior, not identity. It is a choice not a compulsion. It is a sinful rebellion against the natural order of things. You are going to have to decide whether you are going to go along with the world's political correctness or align yourself with God's assessment that it is "unnatural," "degrading," and "shameless lust".

Many will argue that they were born this way; that they are predisposed to their feelings. All right – let's grant it. There's no science to back it up, but let's grant it anyway. Let's say that someday, somewhere, someone finally finds a "gay gene". That still doesn't mean you have to yield to it. If alcoholism runs in my family; if I am born with a predisposition for alcoholism, then should I simply shrug my shoulders and launch into drinking binges because "I'm predisposed to it and I feel like it"?

Some may say that I'm comparing apples to oranges, but I don't think so, if we are positing that both are behaviors driven by a combination of genetic predisposition,

environmental triggers, and free-will choices. Both are terribly risky. In fact, I would argue that homosexual behavior is a greater risk than alcoholism.

Let's stick to the US statistics alone, shall we? While 9% of homosexual men have AIDS, only .03% of heterosexual men have AIDS.¹ You are 300 times more likely to have AIDS if you engage in homosexual behavior. If we agree with the generally accepted statistics that approximately 2%-4% of American males are homosexual,² then they account for:

17% of gonorrhea cases³

42% of new HIV infections⁴

55% of AIDS cases⁵

85% of the syphilis cases⁶

They are five times more likely to be infected with an incurable sexually transmitted disease linked to cancer.⁷ Contrary to popular opinion they have been found to be 50,000 times more likely to be the victim of physical abuse – not from bigoted heterosexuals but from their own homosexual partners!⁸ Battering occurs in 39% of gay male couples: 22% are *physically* abused by their partner and 5% are *sexually* abused by their partner.⁹

Our message to young men must be “you can love men and be healthy and manly.” Our message to homosexuals must be “We love you and thus hate whatever threatens you. Your behavior threatens you so don't ask us to love it.”

We need to teach our children the fine art of self-control and delayed gratification. We need to teach our children that just because they want something, like something, or desire something, doesn't mean that it's good for them. It may start with potato chips and ice cream, but it may lead to a life-threatening behavior like homosexuality.

¹ Based on AIDS statistics from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2001, vol. 13, no.2, 14

² Edward O. Laumann, *The Social Organization of Sexuality: Sexual Practices in the United States* cited by the US Supreme Court in legal brief 02-102 *Lawrence v. Texas*

³ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2001 Supplement: Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) Annual Report

⁴ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Update: A Glance at the HIV Epidemic

⁵ HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2001

⁶ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, *Tracking the Hidden Epidemics: Trends in STDs in the United States in 2000*

⁷ R. Dotinga, “US: 1 in 3 Gay Men have Incurable STD”, March 6, 2002

⁸ Gary Glenn, “Homosexual ‘Love Crimes’ Pose 50,000% Higher Risk of Violence than ‘Hate Crimes’”; March 15, 2001

⁹ Gregory L. Greenwood; “Battering Vicimization Among a Probability-Based Sample of Men Who Have Sex With Men”; *AM J Public Health* 92, no. 12 (2002)