
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Is there a "gay gene"?**

Scientists, doctors, and mental-health workers have been searching frantically for a "gay gene" which would "prove" that certain people are born with an attraction to the same sex. Although this gene has not yet been found, it is believed to exist and many hope for its discovery. Meanwhile, until this phantom gene is found, everyone will operate on the assumption that this gene actually does exist.

What do scientists, doctors, and mental-health workers hope to achieve with this search for a "gay gene"? Well, their goal is to prove that certain people can't "*help themselves*." The idea is: if a person is born with an attraction to the same sex, they should not feel guilty for acting upon those desires. In other words, if one is "*genetically wired*" for same-sex-attraction, he should not feel guilty for fulfilling those desires, nor should that person attempt to rid his mind of those desires.

The Sexual Revolution

All of this thinking is a byproduct of the sexual revolution which began in the 1960s. The sexual revolution argued that people should have sex with anyone they wished and there should be no consequences. No one should be required to exercise self-control and what two consenting adults do in private is no one's business. The results of this thinking have been devastating. Free and casual sex has resulted in:

- A generation of children growing up in single-parent households – often not knowing who their father is.
- No-fault divorce resulting in the breakdown of the family unit.
- The rise and spread of sexually transmitted diseases or STDs.

Free sex, as it turns out, is not so free. The sexual revolution now, of course, wants homosexual behavior to be added to the mix. The results are less than impressive. According to The Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org/pages/facts-about-suicide):

"The rate of suicide attempts is 4 times greater for LBG youth and 2 times greater for questioning youth than that of straight youth. ... 40% of transgender adults reported having made a suicide attempt. 92% of these individuals report having attempted suicide before the age of 25."

What does the Bible have to say about all of this?

What The Bible Says

The Bible teaches a clear distinction between tempting thoughts and actual behavior. In other words, it's one thing to be tempted with a thought, but it's another thing to act upon a thought. A soldier might be tempted to walk up to his drill-Sargent and punch him in the nose, but the soldier doesn't act upon that tempting thought. He learns to control himself. "Self-control" is the biblical concept which humanism rejects.

Acts 24:24-25

²⁴ And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

²⁵ Now as he reasoned about righteousness, **self-control**, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

According to this passage, the apostles of Jesus taught men to have self-control. While it may be true that young people are tempted with thoughts about sex, they must learn to control themselves. Young men are not excused for rape just because they were tempted in their thinking. Likewise, young men and women should not be excused for homosexual behavior just because they have tempting thoughts about homosexual behavior.

In conclusion:

- We should grieve for our young people who are having to grow up in single-parent households.

- We should grieve for young people who do not even know who their father is.
- We should grieve for young people who are being tempted with the doctrine of free-sex.

But we must not excuse sinful behavior simply because someone is being tempted by the Devil. Self-control is possible and desirable, but our present society is attempting to convince us that self-control is impossible and unreasonable.

No "gay gene" has yet been discovered, but if such a gene is ever discovered, this would not relieve someone from how they choose to act. Tempting thoughts merely produce the need to practice self-control. Christians who are interested in doing what the Bible says, need to learn self-control and need to seek Biblical guidelines for sexual fulfillment. Homosexuality is not an option present in the scriptures and no yet-to-be-discovered "gay gene" will relieve a Christian of personal responsibility to control his actions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

My name is George Battey and I thank you for considering our message this week. I invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.