

# Understanding the Roots of Male and Female Homosexuality

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## In the Image of God: The Christian Vision for Love & Marriage

Fort Wayne, Indiana ❖ September 18-29, 2006

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### I. Introduction

- A. The Two Big Myths
  - a. Homosexuality is genetic
  - b. People choose to be gay
  
- B. "Nature vs. Nurture" Debate
  - a. At best, evidence for genetic basis to homosexuality is inconclusive
  - b. Gay researchers admit no discovery of so-called gay gene (Simon LeVay, Dean Hamer, Richard Pillard)
  - c. Further study: *Homosexuality and The Politics of Truth* by Jeffrey Satinover, M.D.; *Homosexuality: The Use of Scientific Research in the Church's Moral Debate* by Drs. Stanton Jones and Mark Yarhouse; [www.narth.com](http://www.narth.com) (National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality)
  
- C. Homosexual Feelings Not a Choice
  - a. For further study: *Desires in Conflict* by Joe Dallas (men); *Restoring Sexual Identity* by Anne Paulk (women)
  
- D. Then Why?
  - a. Current scientific consensus is homosexuality develops across person's lifetime and likely caused by complex interaction of familial, environmental, social, psychological, and temperamental factors
  - b. Official position of two liberal and gay-affirming American Psychological Association and American Psychiatric Association (believe it or not!)

### II. Male Homosexuality

- A. Familial Dynamics (Real or Perceived): Classic Triadic Relationship
  - a. Temperaments
    - 1. Father is quiet, withdrawn, non-expressive and/or even hostile
    - 2. Mother is overly emotionally involved, dominant, and strong
    - 3. Son is shy, timid, introverted, artistic, and imaginative
  - b. Relational Components
    - 1. Father and son do not healthily connect
    - 2. Poor relationship between husband and wife
    - 3. Mother shifts emotional needs to her son, becomes overly involved, two form special relationship
    - 4. Father becomes even more withdrawn and uninvolved in his son's life
  - c. Results
    - 1. Breakdown between father/son, over attachment between mother/son, creates in son lacking confidence in own *masculine identity* (and possibly over-identification with feminine identity)
    - 2. Attempts to fulfill sense of masculine deficit by connecting with another man—only knows how sexually: *homoemotional needs expressed homosexually*
  
- B. Sexual Violation
  - a. 93% study participants reporting sexual contact with older or more powerful partner classified as sexually abused
  - b. 37% participants reported encouraged or forced sexual contact before age 19 with older or more powerful partner

- c. 94% occurred with men. Median age participant at first contact 10; median age difference between partners 11 years
  - d. 51% involved use of force; 33% involved anal sex
- C. Peer Alienation, Labeling, Harassment
- a. Overwhelming sense of feeling “different”
  - b. Does not “measure up” in his own estimation
  - c. “Kitchen Window Boy”: viewing masculine world from outside, but never being a part of it
  - d. Teased and labeled “sissy,” “fag,” “queer”
- D. Other Influencing Factors
- a. Personality temperament
  - b. “Reverse effects” viewing pornography
  - c. Fear of, or rejection by, opposite sex
  - d. Pro-gay cultural messages
  - e. Negative spiritual influences aligning with Christian worldview
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### III. Female Homosexuality

- A. Variations of Lesbianism
- a. Same-Sex Experimentation: women who have “dabbled” in same-sex experience(s) but have not embraced homosexuality as an identity
  - b. Emotional Enmeshment: women who would never act out sexually, but have relied on another woman to gain an identity and a sense of well-being
  - c. Generation Y: younger women who think that bisexuality is in vogue or “cool”
  - d. “Classic” Lesbianism: women who strive to fulfill emotional needs and sexual desires through other women; they embrace a lesbian identity
- B. Familial Dynamics (Real or Perceived)
- a. Mother-Daughter Relationship
    1. Core emotional needs met develops healthy “sense of being”
    2. If no “sense of being,” vulnerable to emptiness and longing
    3. Emptiness, longing emerge in drive to connect with another woman
    4. Breakdown in maternal bonding creates same-sex love deficit; this becomes sexualized
    5. Homoemotionality develops into homosexuality
  - b. Father-Daughter Relationship
    1. Protection, Attention, Adoration, Support: Instills sense worth as person; sense value as female; models opposite sex relating
    2. Lack protection, attention, adoration, support converse occurs
  - c. Husband-Wife Relationship
    1. Affects whether daughter will desire to emulate or reject her roles wife and mother
- C. Abuse: Sexual, Physical, and/or Emotional
- a. National estimates against women in general: 17% to 25%; among lesbian women, conservative figure 60% and as high as 90%
  - b. Anne Paulk’s Interviews: 66% women experienced sexual abuse; 62% witnessed some form abuse against family member; of those molested, 85% sexually violated by male; 17% sexually violated by female; 25% were molested more than once

- c. Dr. Stanton Jones: "Experience of sexual abuse as a child...more than tripled likelihood of later reporting homosexual orientation."

D. Peer Issues

- a. Overwhelming sense of feeling "different"
- b. Does not "measure up" in his own estimation
- c. "Third Sex" mentality

E. Gender Rejection

- a. Paulk's interviews study: "Did you want to be like your mother when you were growing up?" 80% "No!"
- b. 75% responded men more desirable role models
- c. 90% identified as tomboys; 60% mistaken for boy
- d. Judgments: "Being a woman is bad." "Women are weak." "Men cannot be trusted." "Men only want sex."

F. Other Influencing Factors

- a. Personality temperament
  - b. Exposure to pornography
  - c. Exposure to radical feminist ideologies
  - d. Negative experiences with boys/boyfriends/husband
  - e. Loneliness
  - f. Pro-gay cultural messages
  - g. Negative spiritual influences aligning with Christian worldview
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#### IV. Homosexuality Can be Prevented

- A. Because homosexuality is not genetically rooted but developmentally rooted, it can be prevented
  - B. Further study: *A Parent's Guide to Preventing Homosexuality* by Joseph Nicolosi, Ph.D.; *An Ounce of Prevention* by Don Schmierer
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#### V. Homosexuality Can be Overcome

- A. Thousands of personal stories attest to this truth
  - B. Dr. Robert Spitzer's 2001 Study
  - C. A very personal, personal story
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#### VI. Additional Resources

- A. Exodus International, [www.exodus.to](http://www.exodus.to)
- B. National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), [www.narth.com](http://www.narth.com)
- C. *God's Grace and the Homosexual Next Door* by Alan Chambers et al; *101 Frequently Asked Questions About Homosexuality* by Mike Haley; *When Homosexuality Hits Home* by Joe Dallas; *Someone I Love is Gay* by Anita Worthen and Bob Davies; *A Strong Delusion: Confronting the "Gay-Christian" Movement* by Joe Dallas; *Destructive Trends in Mental Health: The Well-Intentioned Path to Harm* by Rogers H. Wright and Nicolas A. Cummings