

{UNITY}

{NOT UNIFORMITY}



{IN ESSENTIALS}

UNITY

{IN NONESSENTIALS}

LIBERTY

{IN ALL THINGS}

LOVE

TOPIC # 6



Homosexuality

TOPIC # 6



Homosexuality

Ground Rules:

1. We're talking about people, not just an issue.
2. We're not talking about "those people," but instead our friends, family and brothers & sisters in Christ.
3. Sensitive topics require careful language.

4.

IN ALL THINGS
LOVE

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Homosexuality

4 Main Views in the Church Today

#1. Abomination (not welcoming, not accepting, not affirming)

#2. Welcoming (not accepting, not affirming)

-*Welcoming* those who are attracted to the same sex into the church community.

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Homosexuality

4 Main Views in the Church Today

#1. Abomination (not welcoming, not accepting, not affirming)

#2. Welcoming (not accepting, not affirming)

#3. Welcoming & Accepting (not affirming)

-Accepting same-sex attraction as a sin-neutral part of life for roughly 10% of the human population.

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Homosexuality

4 Main Views in the Church Today

#1. Abomination (not welcoming, not accepting, not affirming)

#2. Welcoming (not accepting, not affirming)

#3. Welcoming & Accepting (not affirming)

#4. Welcoming, Accepting & Affirming

-Affirming same-sex romantic relationships and gay marriage as good and God-honoring.

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Homosexuality

#1. Abomination

Name comes from Leviticus 18 & 20

Moral Position:

Those who are gay will burn in hell.

Human sexuality:

homosexuals = sexual deviants

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Homosexuality

4 Main Views in the Church Today

~~#1. Abomination (not welcoming, not accepting, not affirming)
(not loving, not biblical, not Christ-like)~~

#2. Welcoming

#3. Welcoming & Accepting

#4. Welcoming, Accepting & Affirming

Our only
real options
as followers
of Christ



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Homosexuality

#2. Welcoming

Moral Position:

Homosexuality, both same-sex attraction and sexual activity, are sinful.

Human sexuality:

homosexuality = sexual brokenness

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Homosexuality

#3. Welcoming & Accepting

Moral Position:

- Same-sex attraction is not sinful.
- Same-sex sexual activity is outside of God's intention for human sexuality and is therefore sinful.

Human sexuality:

(nature & nurture)



bio + enviro = 90% - exclusively heterosexual
5% - varying degrees of bisexual
5% - exclusively homosexual

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Homosexuality

#4. Welcoming, Accepting & Affirming

Moral Position:

Neither same-sex attraction nor same-sex sexual activity within marriage (life-long, monogamous relationships) are sinful.

Human sexuality:

bio = 80% - exclusively heterosexual
10% - varying degrees of bisexual
10% - exclusively homosexual

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Homosexuality

How do these views understand the scriptures that talk about homosexuality?

#2. Welcoming



A
Do not affirm same-sex romantic relationships

#3. Welcoming & Accepting



#4. Welcoming, Accepting & Affirming



B
Affirms same-sex romantic relationships

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

Old Testament: *Sodom & Gomorrah*

Genesis 19:4-7

Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.”

Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him and said, “No, my friends. Don’t do this wicked thing.

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

Old Testament: *Sodom & Gomorrah*

A

Does not affirm same-sex
romantic relationships

The sin here is both rape and homosexuality.
The fact that Lot offers his daughters to the
men means that this story is concerned with
more than just rape. It is specifically
condemning homosexuality.

B

Affirms same-sex
romantic relationships

The sin of Sodom is gang rape
and greed, not homosexuality.

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

Old Testament: Sodom & Gomorrah

A

← Support passages →

B

Ezekiel 16:49-50

“Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me.”

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

Old Testament: Sodom & Gomorrah

A

← Support passages →

B

Jude 7

In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

perversion = 4 Greek words

having gone *after* *strange/different* *flesh*
(1) (2) (3) (4)

Ezekiel 16:49-50

“Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me.”

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

Old Testament: *Leviticus 18 & 20*

Leviticus 18:22,24,29

Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable (*it is an abomination*).

Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled.

Everyone who does any of these detestable things—such persons must be cut off from their people.

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

Old Testament: *Leviticus 18 & 20*

A

Do these laws
apply to us today?

B

They apply in the same way that vs.9 prohibits incest, vs.20 prohibits adultery and vs.23 prohibits bestiality. Jesus didn't abolish the law, but fulfilled it. (Matt. 5:17)

They don't apply in the same way vs.19 doesn't apply (it prohibits having sex with your wife during her monthly period). As followers of Christ we have been released from the law with all of its prohibitions on food and lifestyle. (Romans 7:6)

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

New Testament: *Romans 1*

Romans 1:26-27

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

New Testament: *Romans 1*

A

- We may disagree with Paul's understanding of what is "natural" in 1 Cor. 11:14-15, but we agree with him in these other passages:
(Rom 2:14,27; 11:21,24, Gal 2:15, Gal 4:8)
- Romans 1 makes it clear that Paul's sexual ethic prohibits homosexual sexual activity.
- God intended sexuality to be expressed between a man and woman in marriage.

B

- Disagree with the apostle Paul's use of the word "natural" (φύσιν - phoosin)
- 1 Cor. 11:14-15**, "Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory?"
- It is "unnatural" for someone who is gay to try to be in a straight relationship.
- We can't expect Paul to understand "sexual orientation"

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

New Testament: *1 Cor. 6:9 & 1 Tim. 1:10*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

New Testament: *1 Cor. 6:9 & 1 Tim. 1:10*

A

B

- “men who have sex with men” = 2 Greek words
 1. Malakoi: “soft” (men who receive sex from men)
 2. Arsenokoitai: (*arsenos* – men; *koite* – bed)
 - literally “men who bed other men” (euphemism for sex)
- 1 Timothy 1:10 ←

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

New Testament: *1 Cor. 6:9 & 1 Tim. 1:10*

1 Timothy 1:9-11

We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality (arsenokoitais), for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel...

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

New Testament: *1 Cor. 6:9 & 1 Tim. 1:10*

A

- “men who have sex with men” = 2 Greek words
 1. Malakoi: “soft” (men who receive sex from men)
 2. Arsenokoitai: (*arsenos* – men; *koite* – bed)
 - literally “men who bed other men” (euphemism for sex)
- 1 Timothy 1:10
- “...that is what some of you *were*, but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ...” (1 Cor. 6:11)

B

- *malakoi & arsenokoitai* do not speak to loving, monogamous, same-sex relationships
- they are words that refer to sexually and economically exploitive relationships such as male temple prostitution and extortion.
- we can't use these passages about temple prostitution to prohibit loving, monogamous, same-sex relationships

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Homosexuality

Scriptures that address homosexuality

Old Testament:

Sodom & Gomorrah
(*Gen. 19*)

Ezekiel 16:49-50

Jude 7



Leviticus 18 & 20

Matthew 5:17

Romans 7:6



New Testament:

Romans 1

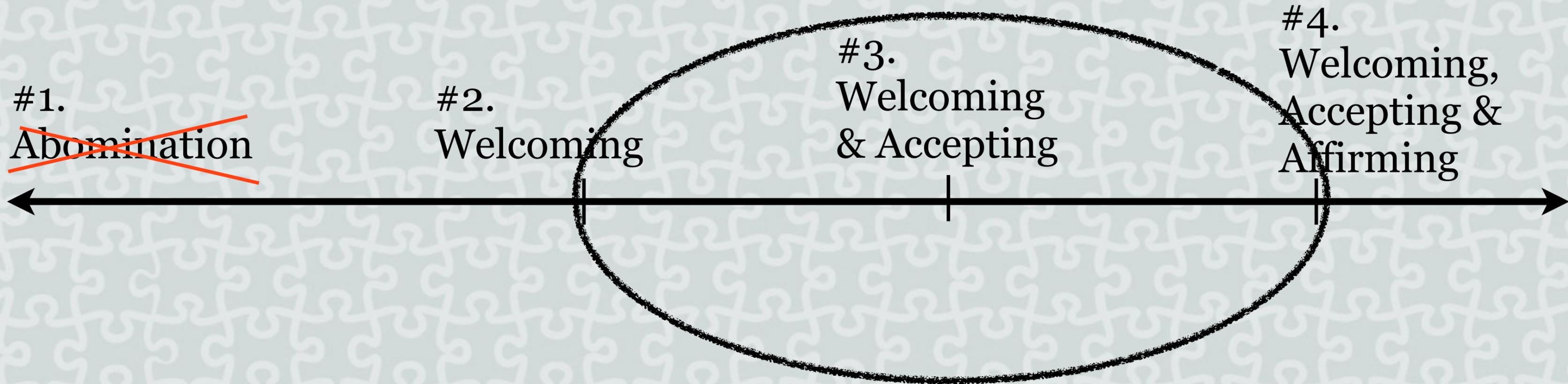
1 Cor. 6:9 & 1 Tim. 1:10

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Homosexuality

Where is Horizon Church on this?



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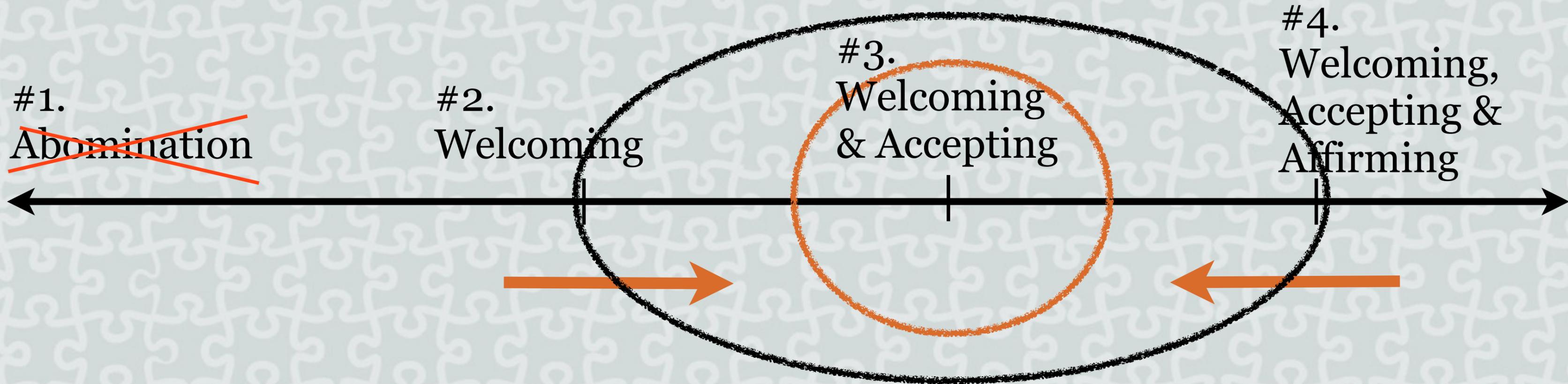
- Welcoming* those who are attracted to the same sex into the church community.
- Accepting* same-sex attraction as a sin-neutral part of life for roughly 10% of the human population.
- Affirming* same-sex romantic relationships and gay marriage as good and God-honoring.

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Homosexuality

Where is Horizon Church Leadership on this?



Direction of Our Conversations

*

- Welcoming those who are attracted to the same sex into the church community.
- Accepting same-sex attraction as a sin-neutral part of life for roughly 10% of the human population.
- Affirming same-sex romantic relationships and gay marriage as good and God-honoring.

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Homosexuality

Where can these 3 views agree?

1. Everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, is welcome in the church community.
2. For too long Christians (especially those with the “abomination” view) have shown the LGBT community nothing but hate and bigotry. Loving responses are the way forward.
3. God designed loving, life-long, monogamous relationships (a.k.a. marriage) as the only proper context for sexual activity.
4. Our primary identity as Christians is not whether we are single or married, gay or straight. Our primary identity is in Christ alone.



Questions?

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