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# EMBRACING TRUTH

## Homosexuality and the Word of God

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**Introduction - *David W. Torrance*, retired parish minister**

### **Clearing the ground**

- 1. Confusion and clarity - *Andrew Goddard*, Anglican clergyman and writer**  
*Ethics* - common criticisms of the traditionalist stance: some responses  
*How can a traditional stance that is counter-cultural convince today's youth?*
- 2. Same sex science: The social sciences cannot settle the moral status of homosexuality - *Stanton L. Jones*, Provost of Wheaton College**  
*Sociology* - broad beliefs shaping our culture that are unsustainable  
*What do we really know about the complexities of sexual behaviour?*
- 3. Facts and figures - *David J Randall*, retired parish minister**  
*Statistics* - the evidence about same sex relationships  
*What do the statistics tell us about the homosexual lifestyle?*

### **Christian belief**

- 4. The authority of Scripture: is the Bible the Word of God or does it contain the Word of God? - *David W. Torrance***  
*Scripture* - the importance of its authority for deciding moral issues  
*Is the Bible God's infallible Word or does it only contain the Word of God?*
- 5. The biblical affirmation of sex - *Tom Smail*, former College principal**  
*Scripture* - the complementarity of marriage a reflection of God's image  
*Does a lack of marital complementarity promote societal disintegration?*
- 6. The Church's traditional view - *Angus Morrison*, parish minister**  
*Tradition* - teaching of the one catholic apostolic church on sexual behaviour  
*Why would ecclesiastical acceptance of homosexual practice be schismatic?*
- 7. Understanding Marriage - *David J Torrance*, parish minister**  
*Theology* - the nature of marriage  
*Is gender more significant than sex for the biblical concept of marital 'union'?*
- 8. Same sex relations: some theological pointers - *David J Torrance***  
*Theology* - the illogic of same sex 'marriage'  
*Does same sex 'marriage' re-interpret the meaning of 'marriage'?*

## The Bible and homosexual practice

### 9. Robert Gagnon's *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*: Review **moral**

- **Paul Burgess**, Prof. Emeritus Gujranwala Theological Seminary, Pakistan

*Hermeneutics* - Examining the biblical verdict on homosexual practice

*Did the Bible's indictment of gay sex include caring committed partnerships?*

### 10. Accommodation and pastoral concern: what does the biblical text say? - **Robert A. J. Gagnon**, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

*Scripture* - Jesus' and Paul's pastoral concerns for sexual sinners

*Should pastoral concern trump moral rectitude according to Scripture?*

### 11. How seriously does Scripture treat the issue of homosexual practice? - **Robert A. J. Gagnon**

*Scripture* - God's creation of complementary human beings radically offended

*Why does Scripture take homosexual practice so seriously?*

## Wisdom and obedience

### 12. The celibate path: a Christian's journey with homosexuality **I**

- **Calum MacKellar**, visiting professor at St Mary's Uni. College, London, and director of research at a medical charity.

*Experience* - struggling with homosexual tendencies in the context of church

*Why is the church often a dangerous place for homosexuals?*

### 13. Matters of the heart: James E. Loder on homosexuality and the possibility of transformation - **Mark S. Koontz**, USA pastor and writer

*Psychology* - Treating the deeply wounded spirit in the homosexual

*Is transformation of the homosexual condition either desirable or possible?*

### 14. A pastoral letter in defence of marriage - **Philip Tartaglia**, R.C. Bishop of Paisley

*Politics* - a Roman Catholic response to the proposals for same sex marriage

*Why should Christians oppose the legalisation of same sex marriage?*

### 15. Compassion and community - **Jock Stein**, formerly Warden of Carberry Tower

*Pastoralia* - Balancing righteousness and compassion

*What does it mean to be compassionate in the current situation?*

## Epilogue:

### Drawing a line in shifting sands - **Fearghas MacFhionnlaigh**, art teacher and Gaelic poet

*Philosophy* - Subterranean dynamics transmuting today's philosophical landscape

*Why should we stand up against our society's approach to homosexuality?*