

## **Cultural Collision**

### **Part 2 –Is a person born gay?**

#### **Review:**

- Last week we explained the letter –Doctrinal statement
- We showed you a video – The Reformation Project –Matt Vines
- His Argument –Gods word does not condemn homosexuality
- Make sure you go to the website –the video is coming in the next two weeks
- Sean McDowell is coming next Friday (the 28<sup>th</sup>)
- The resource in the back –booklet ---please grab one

#### **Remember we believe the Bible is Gods Word –Both Old and New Testaments**

**2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NIV)** — **16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#### **Remember we were warned that false teachers would come preaching falsehood**

**Jude 3–4 (NIV)** — **3** Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people. **4** For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

#### **Remember the video –**

- **Objecting to all six passages concerning homosexuality**
- **The challenge:** Matthew Vines/ Reformation Project says that the Old Testament is not valid –he misquotes scripture several times

#### **Jesus makes it clear that the Old Testament is valid**

**Matthew 5:17–19 (ESV)** — **17** “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. **18** For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. **19** Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

#### **Paul tells us the law is valid if it is used correctly**

**1 Timothy 1:8–11 (ESV)** — **8** Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, **9** understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, **10** the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, **11** in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

## **The Old Testament moral standards are not set aside**

- The book of Holiness –Leviticus
- Three kinds of law are intertwined in the book of Holiness
- Ceremonial –(dietary -purity –sacrifices)
- Civil –national law for the Jews
- Moral law –Gods standards of right and wrong –God is righteous

## **Yes Jesus sets aside the food laws**

**Mark 7:14–20 (ESV)** — **14** And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: **15** There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” **17** And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. **18** And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, **19** since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) **20** And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him.

## **Paul sets aside the food laws**

**1 Timothy 4:1–5 (ESV)** — **1** Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, **2** through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, **3** who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. **4** For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, **5** for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

## **The sacrificial system is done away with**

**Hebrews 7:27 (ESV)** — **27** He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

## **The Sabbath is no longer in effect**

**Colossians 2:16 (ESV)** — **16** Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

## **The moral law is still in effect**

**Matthew 19:3–6 (NIV)** — **3** Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?” **4** “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ **5** and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? **6** So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

### **Notice:**

- *Jesus affirms that God spoke to Adam –Moses wrote the book (First five –the Pentateuch—including Leviticus)*
- *Jesus is pointing marriage and sexuality back to the design in creation*
- *Jesus affirms that God created two genders*
- *Sex (becoming one flesh) is for a man and a woman*
- *Jesus affirms marriage is between one man and one women*

**Genesis 1:26–29 (NIV) — 26** Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” **27** So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. **28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.** Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” **29** Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

**Genesis 2:20–25 (NIV) — 20** So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. **21** So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. **22** Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. **23** The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” **24** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. **25** Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

### **Jesus quotes from Leviticus 19—right in between 18 & 20 which condemn homosexuality**

**Mark 12:28–31 (NIV) — 28** One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” **29** “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **30** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ **31** The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

## **This week –the question of Genetics –is a person born gay?**

### **Americans have believed a lie**

- 51% of Americans now believe a person is born gay
- How has opinion been shaped –the media –the colleges
- Just as in many cases –lies have been repeated enough –people believe them
- The history of the argument

**1991-** Harvard trained neurobiologist **Simon LeVay**—(himself gay) *The Journal of Science* 1991 –they hypothalamus test –heterosexuals have a smaller hypothalamus – huge problems with the study

**The media gets excited –scientist check his work and make him clarify**

LeVay writes in *Discover Magazine*—“It’s important to stress what I didn’t find. I did not prove that homosexuality is genetic, or find a genetic cause for being gay. I didn’t show that gay men are born that way, the most common mistake people make in interpreting my work. Nor did I locate a gay center in the brain...”

**1993** -Harvard Geneticist Dean Hamer (also gay) *Science* magazine –“statistical confidence level of more than 99% that at least one subtype of male sexual orientation is genetically influenced”.

**Dean Hammer’s** work comes under fire – It cannot be collaborated

**University of Western Ontario** –“It is unclear why our results are so discrepant from Hamer’s original study. Because our study was larger than that of Hamer’s—we certainly had enough power to detect a genetic effect as large as was reported in the study.”

Hamer’s response –“the best recent study,” he conceded, suggests that female sexual identification is more a matter of environment than heredity.” ... When asked by *Scientific American* if homosexuality was rooted solely in biology, Hamer replied “absolutely not.” Research involving identical twins has disproven that theory.”

**Dr Neil Whitehead –PHD**

“At best genetics is a minor factor,” says Dr. Neil Whitehead, PhD. Whitehead worked for the New Zealand government as a scientific researcher for 24 years, then spent four years working for the United Nations and International Atomic Energy Agency. Most recently, he serves as a consultant to Japanese universities about the effects of radiation exposure. His PhD is in biochemistry and statistics.

Identical twins have the same genes or DNA. They are nurtured in equal prenatal conditions. If homosexuality is caused by genetics or prenatal conditions and one twin is gay, the co-twin should also be gay. “Because they have identical DNA, it ought to be 100%,” Dr. Whitehead notes. But the studies reveal something else. “If an identical twin has same-sex attraction the chances the co-twin has it are only about 11% for men and 14% for women.” Because identical twins are always genetically identical, homosexuality cannot be genetically dictated. “No-one is born gay,” he notes. “The predominant things that create homosexuality in one identical twin and not in the other have to be post-birth factors.

**(Notice Hamers study said 50%--in the 1990s)**

“Dr. Whitehead believes same-sex attraction (SSA) is caused by “non-shared factors,” things happening to one twin but not the other, or a personal response to an event by one of the twins and not the other. For example, one twin might

have exposure to pornography or sexual abuse, but not the other. One twin may interpret and respond to their family or classroom environment differently than the other. "These individual and idiosyncratic responses to random events and to common environmental factors predominate," he says. The first very large, reliable study of identical twins was conducted in Australia in 1991, followed by a large U.S. study about 1997. Then Australia and the U.S. conducted more twin studies in 2000, followed by several studies in Scandinavia, according to Dr. Whitehead. "Twin registers are the foundation of modern twin studies. They are now very large, and exist in many countries. A gigantic European twin register with a projected 600,000 members is being organized, but one of the largest in use is in Australia, with more than 25,000 twins on the books."

A significant twin study among adolescents shows an even weaker genetic correlation. In 2002 Bearman and Brueckner studied tens of thousands of adolescent students in the U.S. The same-sex attraction concordance between identical twins was only 7.7% for males and 5.3% for females—lower than the 11% and 14% in the Australian study by Bailey et al conducted in 2000. In the identical twin studies,

Dr. Whitehead has been struck by how fluid and changeable sexual identity can be." Neutral academic surveys show there is substantial change. About half of the homosexual/bisexual population (in a non-therapeutic environment) moves towards heterosexuality over a lifetime. About 3% of the present heterosexual population once firmly believed themselves to be homosexual or bisexual." Sexual orientation is not set in concrete," he notes. Even more remarkable, most of the changes occur without counseling or therapy. "These changes are not therapeutically induced, but happen 'naturally' in life, some very quickly," Dr. Whitehead observes. "Most changes in sexual orientation are towards exclusive heterosexuality." Numbers of people who have changed towards exclusive heterosexuality are greater than current numbers of bisexuals and homosexuals combined. In other words, ex-gays outnumber actual gays. **Keep**

**"Neuroplasticity" San Diego State University** (See Anatomy of the Soul concerning same subject)

"Even if homosexuals have different brain structure, this may indicate that their behavior changes their brain, not the other way around. Neuroplasticity—the life long ability of the brain to change in response to environment, behavior, brain injury, or even new knowledge might be a factor."

### **The Bottom line**

- Though genetics do not determine our sexuality many still have same sex attraction
- The Nurture and Nature argument may be solved –its both
- We are all predisposed towards sin
- All have been born with a sinful nature –and have experienced things that shaped their specific bent
- So what if there is a genetic predisposition? (not a determination but predisposition) –we do not give permission for people to sin if they have a predisposition or if they were brought up in a horrible environment

- We live in a fallen world –a spiritual enemy –a broken culture
- We live with a sinful nature
- It makes sense that the enemy would seek to destroy the design of God and so destroy us

**Galatians 5:16–17 (NIV)** — **16** So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17** For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

**Romans 7:18 (NIV)** — **18** For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

### **The answer**

- Obey God –live with eternity in mind
- Die to self and take up your cross daily

**Luke 9:23–26 (NIV)** — **23** Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. **24** For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. **25** What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? **26** Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

### **God forgives and gives us the ability to leave the past behind**

**1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NIV)** — **9** Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men **10** nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** 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.

### **Q and A**