

Discussion Questions for *Homosexuality*

1. What are the benefits and limits of dialogue on the topic of homosexuality? Would Christian people ever put a limit of any kind on dialogue about this matter?
2. What is your initial response to the Christian church's traditional view of sexuality and the recent developments that have been presented as a challenge to the traditional view?
3. What explanation might you give for research that suggests that homosexuality may be more common in urban rather than rural or suburban settings?
4. What weight should be given to the prevalence rates of homosexuality or homosexual behavior in the present moral debates in the church?
5. How helpful do you think animal studies are to our understanding of human sexuality?
6. Is it possible that because there are many different kinds of experiences of same-sex attraction, that there may be many contributing influences, and that some of these vary from person to person?
7. How important is it to have a *representative* sample of homosexuals when making claims about the homosexual population?
8. Do you think higher rates of depression, substance abuse and suicidality among homosexuals is a symptom of the maladaptiveness of a homosexual orientation, the result of societal prejudice and oppression, or some combination?
9. How relevant are the reports of "positive outcome" to people who contend with same-sex attraction?
10. Why is informed consent important when someone experiences same-sex attraction and pursues change?
11. In what ways are the concepts of self-denial and the pursuit of holiness relevant to the topic of homosexuality?
12. Is the debate about homosexuality simply a debate about homosexuality or is it about broader issues of greater importance to the church? Put another way, do two people who seem to agree theologically in every way *except* their views of the morality of homosexual behavior *really* agree on all those other matters?

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