

**Think It Over:** This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- When was the last time you had to walk the fine line of accepting a person while not affirming a behavior of a person? What happened? Why do you think it is so hard to get that balance right? What is a stake when we get it wrong?
- Review the section "The Bible and Homosexuality." What stands out to you? Why is it dangerous to say, "God made me this way, so it's ok for me to pursue this," not only in the area of sexual desire, but in any area of life that is outside of God's preferred will?
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT, LB. What is Paul saying about tempting desires in general? Why should that give us all an overflowing hope in the area of tempting desires? Do you believe Paul's words? How would someone else know you believe them?
- Acceptance of a person is not necessarily approval or affirmation of a behavior. How does Jesus live it out while being full of grace & truth? See John 4:1-25; John 8:1-11; Luke 19:1-10; John 21:15-19.
- Read through the "Graceless Comments" & "Graceful Comments." How are those ideas communicated not only in your words, but in your attitudes towards people? How are you growing in this area?
- How would you personally answer the question regarding a Christ follower's participation and attendance at a gay wedding? What would your rationale be for your answers?

**Next Steps:** What are the gifts in your life? Have you claimed your marital status as a gift? Why or why not? What do you need to change in your thinking to accept your marital status as a gift? How are you making your gift about the Gift Giver and celebrating Him?

**Changing Your Mind:** *But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.*

1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT, LB



If you missed a message, visit [www.scc.website](http://www.scc.website) or request a CD at Guest Services.



## The Bible and Homosexuality

*<sup>18</sup>The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." <sup>22</sup>Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. <sup>24</sup>That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

Genesis 2:18; 22;24-25 NIV

- God created male and female.
- God created sexual intimacy.

A homosexual orientation is no different than any other orientation someone can have toward a particular lifestyle that is outside of God's preferred will.

*<sup>25</sup>And all this because they traded the true God for a fake god, and worshiped the god they made instead of the God who made them—the God we bless, the God who blesses us. Oh, yes! <sup>26</sup>Worse followed. Refusing to know God, they soon didn't know how to be human either—women didn't know how to be women, men didn't know how to be men. <sup>27</sup>Sexually confused, they abused and defiled one another, women with women, men with men—all lust, no love. And then they paid for it, oh, how they paid for it—emptied of God and love, godless and loveless wretches. <sup>28</sup>Since they didn't bother to acknowledge God, God quit bothering them and let them run loose. Romans 1:25-28 MSG*

It's really dangerous to say, "God made me this way so it's ok for me to pursue this."

<sup>13</sup>But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT, LB

<sup>15</sup>Jesus, our high priest, is able to understand our weaknesses. When Jesus lived on earth, he was tempted in every way. He was tempted in the same ways we are tempted, but he never sinned. <sup>16</sup>With Jesus as our high priest, we can feel free to come before God's throne where there is grace. There we receive mercy and kindness to help us when we need it. Hebrews 14:15-16 ERV

## Acceptance not Approval

<sup>14</sup>The Word became a man and lived among us. We saw his divine greatness—the greatness that belongs to the only Son of the Father. The Word was full of grace and truth. John 1:14 NIV

John 4:1-25 NIV; John 8:1-11 NIV  
Luke 19:1-10 NIV; John 21:15-19 NIV

## Graceless Comments

- God created Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve.
- Homosexuality is a choice.
- Homosexual sin leads to other sexual sins.
- If you repent, God will take your homosexual desires away.
- Love the sinner, hate the sin.

## Graceful Comments

- I love you. (John 3:16; 1 John 4:8-10; Rom. 5:8; Psalms 86:15)
- I understand rejection. (Isa. 53:3; Mk 3:20-21; Matt. 26:55-56; Matt. 27; Ez. 18:21-23)
- I was tempted. (Heb. 4:15-16; Heb. 2:17-18; 12:2-3, 7-11)
- I will be here for you. (Rom. 2:4; 2 Pt. 3:9; 1 Pt 5:7)

### ➤ Participation in a Gay Wedding

If you believe your participation is enabling it to happen or facilitating its act, then the answer has to be no. You would be participating in something wrong.

### ➤ Attendance at a Gay Wedding

My love is not something that is doled out as a reward for good behavior.

### Bottom Line

Acceptance of a person  
can't be communicated  
as an affirmation of a behavior.

Resources for this message include a message by James Emery White at Mecklenburg Community Church, Summit Church, and The Village Church.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the Think It Over section on the back.