



Answering

“The Best Defense
of Homosexuality”

Argument 1: Faith Vs. Compassion

“God does not ask us to choose between compassion and faith in the Bible.”

Argument 1: Quotes

- “The debate itself is usually framed as essentially pitting the Bible, on one hand, against compassion and social justice on the other. Our Christian hearts, runs the (usually impassioned) argument, compel us to grant full moral and legal equality to gay and lesbian people; our Christian faith, comes the (usually impassioned) rebuttal, compels us to cleave, above all, to the word of God.”
- “The answer is that no Christian is called upon to make that choice. The text of the Bible on one hand, and full equality for gay and lesbian people on the other, is a false dichotomy. God would not ask or expect Christians to ever choose between their heart and their faith.”

Argument 1: Quotes (Continued)

- “Reconciling the Bible with unqualified acceptance and equality for LGBT people does not necessitate discounting, recasting, deconstructing or reinterpreting the Bible. All it takes is reading those passages of the Bible wherein homosexuality is mentioned with the same care we would any other passage of the book.”
- “And we can trust that we can -- and that we certainly should -- take God, in this matter, as in all things, at his Word.”

Part 1: Answered

- **Rejecting** homosexuality does not pit faith against compassion.
- Christians must believe homosexuality is a **sin** while being compassionate in teaching the gospel of repentance and salvation to them.
 - True faith necessitates compassion and love – 1 Pet. 3:3; 2 Pet. 1:5-7
 - Christ showed the truest form of compassion while preaching repentance – Mk. 6:34; Mt. 4:17; Lk. 3:3, 8; Mt. 9:13; Lk. 24:46-47

Part 2: Answered

- It is false to claim that “God would not ask or expect Christians to ever choose between their heart and their faith.”
- There is no equality between our feelings, thoughts, or emotions and the word of God in determining our course of action as Christians.
 - The thoughts of the heart are only as good as what they reflect – Mt. 7:21-23; Acts 5:3; 8:22
 - We are held accountable if we follow our hearts and act contrary to the word of God – Rom. 10:17

Part 3: Answered

- It is false to claim that “unqualified acceptance and equality for gays” takes only “reading those passages of the Bible wherein homosexuality is mentioned with the same care we would any other passage of the book” and to “take God, in this matter, as in all things, at his Word.”
- This statement is designed to convince the unaware reader that they are going to accept God’s word without question.
- What do we learn about homosexuality from taking God at his word? – Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:26-27

Argument 2: Christians Cannot *Marginalize and Ostracize Gays*

“If there is no clearly stated directive in the Bible to marginalize and ostracize gay people, then Christians continuing to do so is morally indefensible, and must cease.”

Argument 2: Quotes

- “What cannot be denied is that **Christians have caused** a great deal of pain and suffering to gay persons, by:
 - “**Banning** their participation in the church, thus depriving them of the comforts and spiritual fruits of the church;
 - “**Banning** their participation in the sacrament of marriage, thus depriving them of the comforts and spiritual fruits of marriage;
 - “**Damaging** the bonds between gays and their straight family members, thus weakening the comforts and spiritual fruits of family life for both gays and their families;

Argument 2: Quotes (Continued)

- “Using their position within society as spokespersons for God to proclaim that all homosexual relations are disdained by God, **thus knowingly contributing to the cruel persecution of a minority population.**”
- “Christians do not deny that they have done these things,” but claim they “have no choice” because “the Bible instructs them to exclude from full participation in the church all non-repentant sinners (including gay people), and morally calls upon them to publicly (or at least resolutely) denounce homosexual acts.”
- **“Without an explicit directive from God to exclude and condemn homosexuals,** the Christian community’s treatment of gay persons is in clear violation of...the most important commandment from God: to love one’s neighbor as one’s self...**Because the mistreatment of gay persons by Christians is so severe,** the directive from God **to marginalize and ostracize must be clear and explicit in the Bible.**”

Part 1: Answered

- Note the **inflammatory language** to describe Christians who reject homosexuality.
- The accusation that biblical, loving preaching against homosexuality contributes to their “cruel persecution” is **false** – Eph. 4:15
- Faithful Christians **do not marginalize**, downgrade, or disregard homosexuals – Lk. 15:7; Rm. 3:23; 6:23
- Faithful Christians **do not ostracize**...but we cannot grant acceptance to their sin either – 2 Thess. 3:6

Part 2: Answered

- Argument: “The directive from God **to marginalize and ostracize gay people** must be *clear and explicit* in the Bible. If there is no such clearly stated directive, then the continued Christian mistreatment of gay and lesbian people...must cease.”

If we are to *reject* sexually immoral brethren, are we to *accept* homosexuals?

brother – 5:1-2

- This was to help this sinner see his sin and **be saved** as well as to **protect the church** from his evil influence – 5:4-5, 6-8
- They were to **purge out** this evil by **not keeping company with him** – 5:11, 13b

Part 3: Answered

- It is **false** to claim that Christians are guilty of “**mistreatment** of gay and lesbian people” because they don’t accept them as faithful, have strained family relationships, refuse to accept their “marriage,” and preach against their sin.
- According to these writers, Corinth was doing the right thing in accepting/boasting over this immoral brother, while Paul instructs them to do the opposite! – 1 Cor. 5:1-2
- It is those who have chosen to live in homosexuality and will not repent that have brought upon themselves this separation from church, family, and marriage, as well as the condemnation of God’s word.
- Thus, this attempt to condemn faithful brethren puts these writers in the position of being “accusers of the brethren,” like Satan himself – Rev. 12:10