

Basic Questions About Homosexuality That You May Have Wanted To Ask

1. Why are some people homosexual? Is it a choice?

Homosexuality is NOT a choice, just as you did not make a choice of your sexual orientation. Current scientific evidence indicates that sexual orientation is determined at birth; probably from hormonal balances during gestation and from genetics. A study of twins showed that if one identical twin was gay, the other had a 55% chance of being gay. For fraternal twins, the odds of the other twin being gay dropped down to about 17%; the same as the likelihood of other family members being gay. In families with many boys, the younger members have a higher probability of being gay.

2. What percentage of people is gay or lesbian?

According to estimates cited by the Human Rights Campaign, about 5% of the population are gay men and about 2-3% lesbians. Bisexual transgendered and intersex make up a smaller population. Actual numbers might be higher as many gays and lesbians do not disclose their sexual orientation because of fear of rejection by family and friends, job loss, discrimination, verbal or physical abuse, etc.

3. Does same-sex attraction appear only among humans, or is it evident in other animal populations?

Studies have shown that same-sex attraction occurs in other animal populations.

4. What does the Bible say about homosexuality? What did Jesus say about gay people?

In the past few years, more evangelical conservatives have changed their position against homosexuality. Professor of Theology Emeritus, USC, Dr. Jack Rogers' book "*Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality*" is the latest to examine the issues.

5. Can homosexuality be cured?

Since homosexuality is NOT a disease, it cannot, nor needs to, be "cured". Some televangelists and organizations such as Exodus International, an "ex-gay" ministry, promote the idea that gays can change their sexual orientation. They parade a handful of people who say that they are able to control their same-sex attraction through faith. Relapses of the "cured" leaders of Exodus International made media headlines as they faltered in their struggle to suppress their natural orientation.

6. I don't know anyone who is gay or lesbian. Why should I be concerned with their issues?

You might not know anyone who is Jewish, Black, or Lebanese. You might ask why you should be concerned about their issues. Our basic humanitarian instincts call for treating all humankind with dignity and respect. There may be gays or lesbians in your family or among friends and coworkers who have not disclose their sexual orientation out of fear, and they may have chosen to "stay in the closet."

7. What really are "gay rights"?

Gay rights are NOT special rights. The rights being sought are the same rights that are granted to a citizen with heterosexual orientation.

8. Why would gay people want to be married?

Gay people want to be married for the SAME reasons straight people wish to be married. Besides making a public commitment to one another, marriage provides social, financial, legal and other benefits. It also provides legal protections when owning property or raising children, among others.

For additional informational literature, please contact the SGV API-PFLAG group at:

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