


Answering LGBTQ: A Biblical Perspective on Identity, Gender, and Sexuality


Christopher Cone, Th.D, Ph.D, Ph.D
drcone.com



My purpose in
this
discussion...

- Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king. – 1 Peter 2:17.

- 
- 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,
 - 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. – Ephesians 4:15–16.

- 
- But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
 - 1 Timothy 1:5.

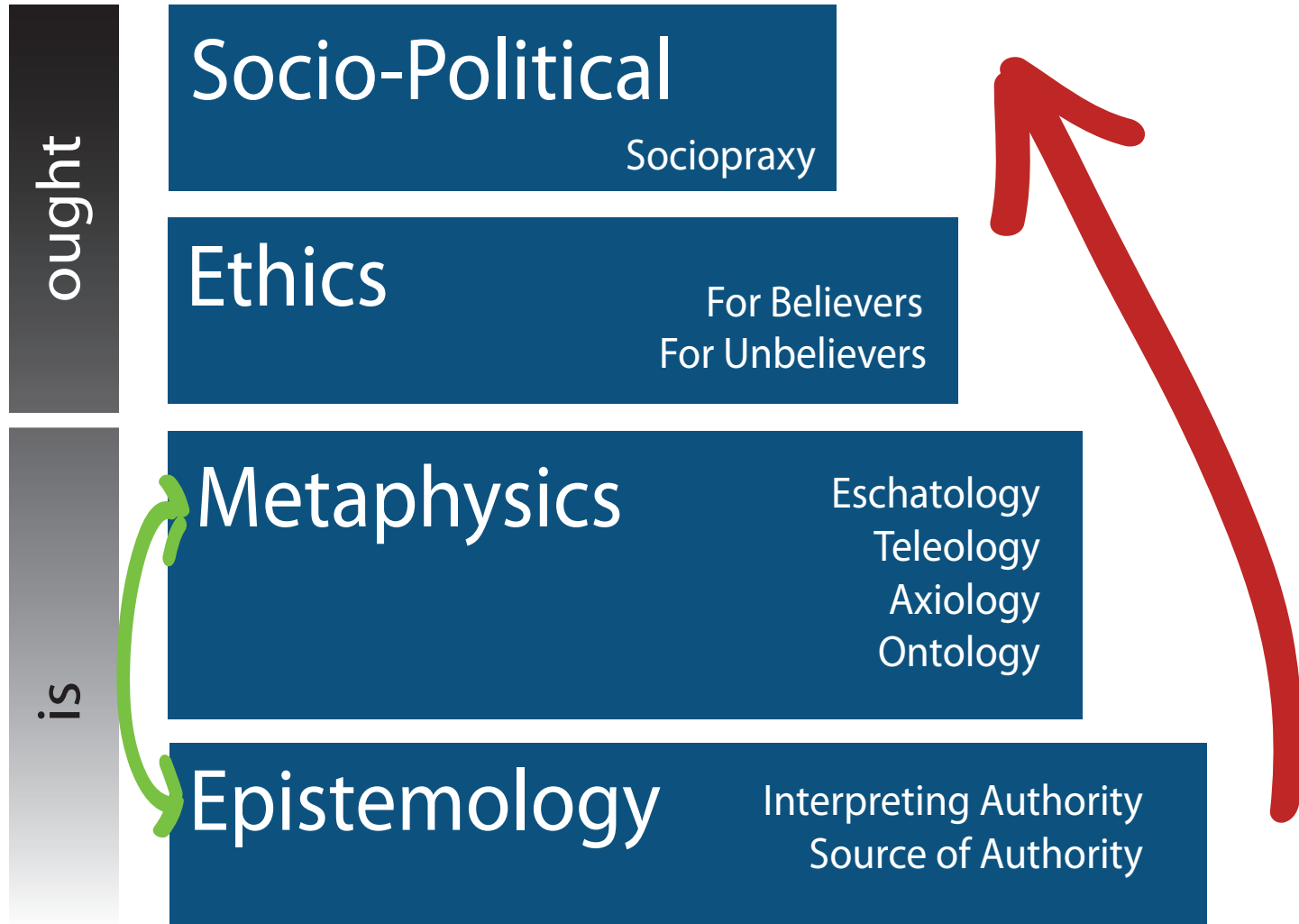
Foundational Questions and Presuppositions



WHAT IS OUR SOURCE
OF AUTHORITY?



HOW DO WE INTERPRET
THAT AUTHORITY?



Three Views

Moral Prohibition
View – Legalistic
Theology

Moral Permission
View – Loophole
Theology

Inherent Design
View – Design
Theology

Moral Prohibition View (Legalistic Theology)

Reads the Bible through the lens of tradition.

Based on 6 passages:

- Genesis 19 – Sodom
- Leviticus 18:22 – Law of Moses prohibited homosexuality
- Leviticus 20:13 – Law of Moses prohibited homosexuality
- Romans 1 – homosexuality is wrong
- 1 Corinthians 6:9 – homosexuals will not enter the kingdom
- 1 Timothy 1:10 – homosexuals will not enter the kingdom



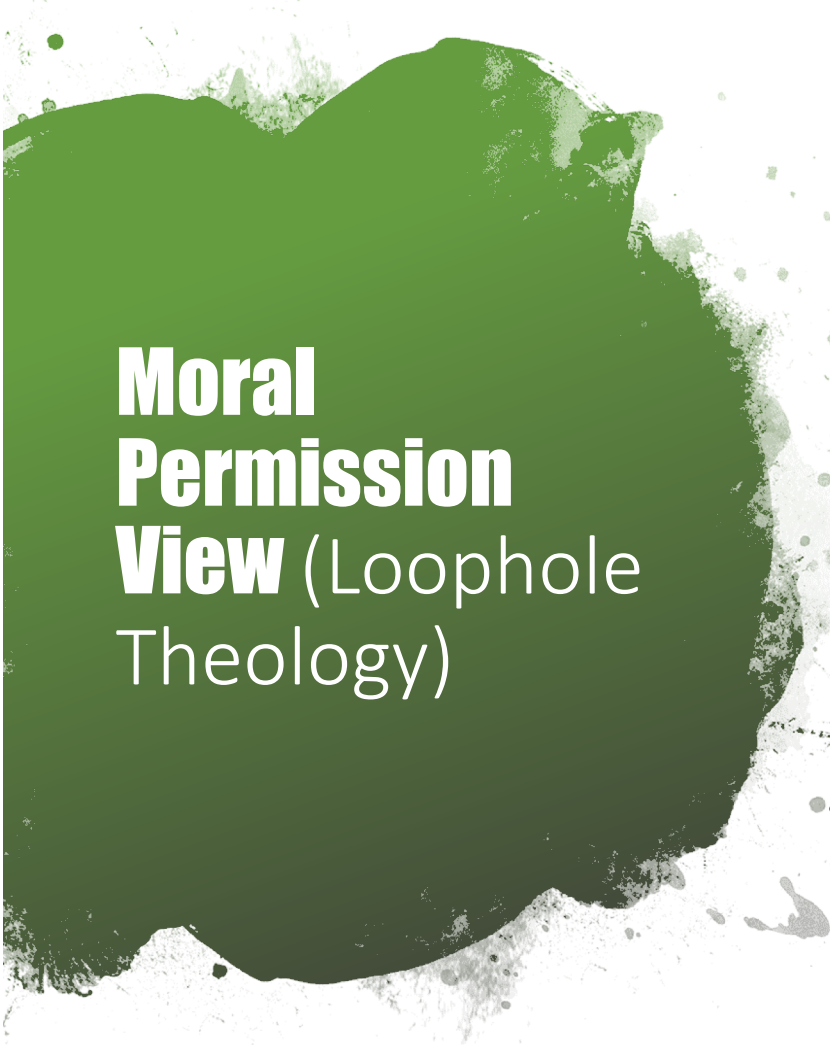
Moral Permission View (Loop-hole Theology)

- As we see, the Bible really does not fully address the topic of homosexuality. Jesus never talked about it. The prophets never talked about it. In Sodom homosexual activity is mentioned within the context of rape (raping angels nonetheless), and in Romans 1:24-27 we find it mentioned within the context of idolatry (Baal worship) involving lust and dishonorable passions. 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:10 talk about homosexual activity in the context of prostitution and possibly pederasty. Nowhere does the Bible talk about a loving and committed homosexual relationship. – Justin Cannon

- <https://www.gaychurch.org/homosexuality-and-the-bible/the-bible-christianity-and-homosexuality/>

Moral Permission View (Loophole Theology)

- “Gay people have a natural, permanent orientation toward those of the same sex. It is not something they choose, and it's not something they can change. They aren't abandoning or rejecting heterosexuality – that's never an option for them to begin with.” – Matthew Vines
- “Being different is no crime. Being gay is not a sin. And for a gay person to desire and pursue love and marriage and family is no more selfish or sinful than when a straight person desires and pursues the very same things. The Song of Songs tells us that King Solomon's wedding day was “the day his heart rejoiced.” To deny to a small minority of people, not just a wedding day, but a lifetime of love and commitment and family is to inflict on them a devastating level of hurt and anguish.” – Vines
- <http://www.matthewvines.com/transcript/>



Moral Permission View (Loop-hole Theology)

- Paul is explicit that the same-sex behavior in this passage is motivated by lust. His description is similar to the common ancient idea that people “exchange” opposite-sex for same-sex relations because they are driven by out-of-control desire, not because they have a different sexual orientation. – Matthew Vines

- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/06/05/us/samesex-scriptures.html>

Inherent Design View (Design Theology)

Reads tradition through the lens of the Bible

Six Elements of Design

- The Design Question
- The Design Deficiency
- The Design Resolution
- The Design Affirmation
- The Design Alternative
- The Design Abandonment

The Design Question

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male (*zaqar*) and female (*negebah*) He created them. Genesis 1:27.

Why two genders?

The Design Deficiency

Then the Lord God said,
“It is not good for the
man to be alone”
Genesis 2:18a.

The male gender already
existed. Why not just
make more of those if
that was a solution to
the deficiency?



The Design Resolution (Genesis 2:18- 25)

- I will make him a helper suitable for him.” Genesis 2:18b.
- For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24.
- The helper (*ezer*) was a woman
- She was a helper corresponding to, or opposite (*neged*) him.
- Notice the prescriptive element of 2:24

Design Affirmation

4 And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 “So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” Matthew 19:4–6.

Jesus affirmed
creation design,
monogamous,
heterosexual marriage
based on design.

The Design Alternative (Celibacy)

But I say to the
unmarried and to
widows that it is
good for them if
they remain even as
I. 1 Corinthians 7:8.

Only, as the Lord has
assigned to each one, as
God has called each, in
this manner let him walk.
1 Corinthians 7:17.

Has God called,
assigned any to
homosexual
relationships?

Are there any
other
alternatives
commended?

Design Abandonment (Romans 1:18- 2:2)

Romans 1:18-20 – The truth of God is suppressed in unrighteousness

Romans 1:21-23 – Rejection of Designer results in rejection of design

Romans 1:24-25 – Consequence #1 – given over to desires

Romans 1:26-27 – Consequence #2 – given over to unnatural

Romans 1:28 – Consequence #3 – given over to brokenness of mind

Romans 1:29-2:2 – Universality of guilt

No alternatives besides heterosexual marriage or celibacy are commended or prescribed.

The homosexual “option” is presented in context and is not commended.



Design Abandonment (Romans 1:18- 2:2)

- ...their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. Romans 1:26–27.

Design Observations and Questions

God did not resolve the problem by creating a second man. Why not?

Does this heterosexual design preclude homosexual relationships?

If an individual doesn't have a helper, does that mean they are alone?

- Love, relationship vs. sex

If an individual doesn't "choose" their sexuality, then how are they accountable for that?

Everyone has lusts, how we handle those determines faithfulness in walk.

Are LGBTQ uniquely excluded from intimacy?

Does Galatians 3:23-26 eliminate design?



- But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
 - 1 Timothy 1:5.