

BIGOTED AND INTOLERANT OR MERCIFUL?

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

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Class outline

Introduction

- Source: Dr. Mary Healy¹
- Why focus on scripture

Sexuality in the Old Testament

- **God's plan:** Genesis 1:28; Genesis 1:26; 1 John 4:8; CCC², 221; Genesis 2:24
- **The fallout:** Genesis 2:25; Genesis 3:7; Genesis 4:19-24
- **The Story of Sodom:** Genesis 18:16-19:29; Jude 1:7; 2 Peter 2:10
- **The Laws of Leviticus:** Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13
- **Friends or Lovers:** Ruth 1:16-17; 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 1 Samuel 20:41; 1 Samuel 19:1; 2 Samuel 1:26
- **The Mercy of God:** Hosea 11:8-9

Mercy and Morality in the Gospels

- **What Jesus said:** Mark 7:20-23 (*porneiai*); Luke 7:2; Matthew 8:5-6; Matthew 9:19-12

Passion and Purity in Paul

- **Marriage:** Ephesians 5:32
- **Corruption:** 1 Corinthians 6:9 (*malakoi, arsenokoitai*); 1 Timothy 1:9-11; Romans 1:24-27
- **God's mercy:** 1 Corinthians 6:11

Teaching of the Church

- "Homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered" (CCC, 2357)
- "Must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity" (CCC, 2358)
- "Homosexual persons are called to chastity" (CCC, 2359)
- "They can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection" (CCC, 2359)

1. This lecture is based, nearly entirely, on this text: Mary Healy, *Scripture, Mercy, and Homosexuality* (El Cajon, California: Catholic Answers Press, 2016).

2. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2000).

Further Resources:

Mary Healy, *Scripture, Mercy, and Homosexuality* (El Cajon, California: Catholic Answers Press, 2016).

This class was based on this little (88 page) book. So if you'd like to go through what we covered, only in greater depth, this book is for you.

William May, *Getting the Marriage Conversation Right* (Steubenville, Ohio: Emmaus Road Publishing, 2012).

The late William May was a prominent Catholic moral theologian. This little (90 page) book is set up in an easy-to-read question and answer format through which he addressed some of the big debates about marriage and family in the world today.

Robert Reilly, *Making Gay Okay: How Rationalizing Homosexual Behavior is Changing Everything* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2014).

With his experience working in government and politics, Robert Reilly addresses homosexuality with a more political and social focus. Reilly writes clearly very directly on this issue, so some might find his style somewhat off-putting.

Courage: A Roman Catholic Apostolate - <https://couragerc.org>

Courage is a support group for persons with same-sex attraction who wish to live according to Church teaching on sexuality. It's counterpart, EnCourage, is for family members of someone living with same-sex attraction. Their website has lots of resources.