

1 Cor 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

* What is the background of our text?

* What two things were the Corinthians separating that God had joined together in the gospel?

(1)

(2)

* What is the modern argument regarding homosexuality, and what has been its main slogan?

* American Psychological Society web page, July 4, 2015:
“What causes a person to have a particular sexual orientation? There is no consensus among scientists about the exact reasons that an individual develops a heterosexual, bisexual, gay or lesbian orientation. Although much research has examined the possible genetic, hormonal, developmental, social and cultural influences on sexual orientation, no findings have emerged that permit scientists to conclude that sexual orientation is determined by any particular factor or factors. Many think that nature and nurture both play complex roles; most people experience little or no sense of choice about their sexual orientation.”

* Scientific twin studies:

– Dean Hamer, et al, study (1993) which reported findings consistent with the hypothesis that male homosexuality was inherited in the Xq28 chromosomal region. This was reported sensationally. However, no subsequent study, including one by Hamer himself, has been able to replicate that finding.

– Rice, et al (1999): *“It is unclear why our results are so discrepant from Hamer’s original study. Because our study was larger than that of Hamer et al., we certainly had adequate power to detect a genetic effect as large as was reported in that study. Nonetheless, our data do not support the presence of a gene of large effect influencing sexual orientation at position Xq28”* (Rice, 1999, p. 668).

– Dean Hamer, along with other researchers, attempted to replicate his earlier findings in 2005. Based on a much larger study, they searched the entire human genome for a genetic basis for male homosexuality and were unable to find one. Significantly, they found no evidence of a link to the Xq28 region.

– Bailey and Pillard (1990): Involved 41 sets of genetically identical sibling groups (40 sets of identical twins and 1 set of

identical triplets) in which at least one sibling was homosexual. They found that in 14 of the 41 sets involved concordance (i.e., both were homosexual). That’s 34% or 52% calculating “probandwise.” Later, the study was found to suffer from “ascertainment bias” because the twins included in the study were largely recruited by advertising in gay and lesbian publications.

– Baily, Dunne, and Martin (2000): Used a much larger sample of twins recruited from the Australian Twin Registry. They identified 27 pairs of male identical twins and 22 pairs of female identical twins in which at least one was homosexual.

Only 3 of the male pairs (11%) were concordant, and only 3 of the female pairs (14%) were concordant. “These rates are significantly lower than the respective rates for the two largest prior twin studies of sexual orientation This suggests that concordances from prior studies were inflated because of concordance-dependent ascertainment bias” (Bailey, 2000, p. 533). “In contrast to most prior twin studies of sexual orientation ..., ours did not provide statistically significant support for the importance of genetic factors for that trait” (p. 534).

– Peter Bearman of Columbia and Hannah Bruckner of Yale (2002): Unlike most previous twin studies, they drew their subjects from Add Health, a U.S. nationally representative study of adolescents in the 7th – 12th grades involving over 90,000 respondents. They also had a much larger sample: 289 pairs of identical twins, 495 pairs of fraternal twins, 1251 pairs of full siblings, 442 pairs of half siblings, and 662 pairs of non-related siblings (*JAS*, vol 107, no. 5 (March 2002), 1179, 1190). Also, they were exploring other factors besides genetics, and they were looking not just at full bore homosexuality, but also same-sex romantic attraction. They concluded that “[t]here is no evidence for strong genetic influence on same-sex preference in this sample.” Among identical twins, 6.7% were concordant; among fraternal twins 7.2% were concordant; among full siblings 5.5% were concordant. “Clearly, the observed concordance rates do not correspond to degrees of genetic similarity. ... If same-sex romantic attraction has a genetic component, it is massively overwhelmed by other factors” (1197-98).

– Gay geneticist Gene Hamer, one of the primary researchers looking for the so-called gay gene, said in a 1995 interview with *Time* magazine: “From twin studies, we already know that half or more of the variability in sexual orientation is not inherited.”

* What about the claim that homosexuality is immutable (i.e., you can’t change it)?

* What does coming home to God always entail?

* What is the true inclusiveness of the gospel?