

362 Gay sex – agreeing to disagree

(This contains explicit content, but I'm not aiming to shock, just to be honest.)

Good Bible students don't let feelings get in the way of their analysis of the texts or of drawing C21 application, but it may help to actually acknowledge what those feelings are. That's difficult, as this is an emotive issue, and we are all products of our past. Indeed, in seven years of writing, I have uncovered a lot about my own family past, and even from a NZ cousin's email, just yesterday.

Originally, I held a traditional view, which has the advantage of being simple. The Bible texts are pretty clear (and I still accept that) – they all say that gay sex is wrong, perverse(?), unnatural. Why is there any need for discussion? It was supported by my own sense of revulsion at what 'they do', although my feelings were more ambivalent towards female gay sex – just being honest.

Add to that the feeling that 'the world' is trying to push us down the 'if it feels good, do it' route. No, our job is to uphold God's moral standards!

I wish that, seven years ago, I had known two lovely Christian couples: Adam and Brian and Claire and Diane, real people (well, they aren't, but you know what I mean) who love each other in a deep and intimate way, and are wholly committed to one another and to God. They are happy and contented after years of singleness in which, as Christians, they were made to feel guilty and ashamed because of their sexual feelings towards people of the same sex.

What's more, through their faith in Jesus, they are able to reach out to other folk who are gay and to affirm them as loved by God for who they are.

But on the face of it, they are flouting God's moral standards, so where is God in this?!

I believe God gives us moral standards because sexual desires are very powerful and if we don't control them they will lead us into casual relationships which can cause terrible pain and heartache. But if we form unique committed relationships, then sexual intimacy – mutual stimulation within the security of total personal commitment – can be increasingly satisfying over the years and can really cement that relationship.

God knows the future, so the Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible to provide us with principles that we could apply in situations that they could never have conceived of. Ours is to read the Bible in the light of present knowledge, and apply those principles to allow people in C21 to live in love and commitment with one another, support each other through the trials and tribulations of life, etc.

Christians who are gay have been badly hurt by church leaders trying 'uphold moral laws' (as have Christian divorcees). Can't we just agree to disagree, and affirm and support each other, for the sake of those who don't yet know God's love?