

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER



Volume 44b, No. 9, March 5, 2019 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

SIN, including 'SSA' BEGINS IN THE MIND!

I cannot **give myself, (my mind), to** ungodly attractions without also desiring to act upon those ungodly attractions. SIN IS CONCEIVED in the heart and acted upon in the mind... and must be repented of! **SAME SEX DESIRES are not to be excused or "managed", they are to be done away with.** THOSE DESIRES are deceitful lusts, wholly outside the will of God, in the same way as Sex Attraction for another's spouse. There is no such thing as being a **celibate ADULTERER** or sodomite!

Ephesians 4:22-24 EXHORTS:

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation (behavior) of the old man, which is **corrupt according to the deceitful lusts**; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5: “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor; NOT in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God.”

IS SAME SEX ATTRACTION SINFUL?

Some otherwise conservative Christians are beginning to take a compromising stance on homosexuality. **They claim that only homosexual behavior is sinful and that same sex attraction (SSA)** is a “*sign of brokenness*” similar to feelings of grief or sadness; or as **one proponent** put it, that having SSA is being “*born in a broken condition... that does not represent flourishing*” similar to being born blind. **They claim it is a negative result of the Fall, but not inherently sinful.** So their advice for Christians who are same sex attracted is to remain celibate and that their SSA is not sinful and doesn’t need to be repented of.

One pastoral candidate was asked if he believed that “*his homosexual feelings, attractions, thoughts, and desires are sinful.*” To which he answered:

*“I believe my same-sex attractions are broken, **but I do not believe they are sinful. It is not a sin for me to be attracted to another man, in the same way it is not sinful for you to be attracted to a woman.**”*

Sam Allberry, (a homosexual priest in the Anglican Church, and greatly sought after by some key Southern Baptist leaders), testifies:

1. “I am same-sex attracted and have been my entire life. **By that I mean that I have SEXUAL, romantic, and deep emotional attractions to people of the same sex.**”

2. Allberry, in conjunction with several other pastors, said: “We are committed to building a church that is genuinely welcoming to all people, **irrespective of the pattern of sexual attraction** which they experience.”

3. Allberry also says that he is “*uncomfortable with saying same-sex attraction is sin.*”

4. Russell Moore, the head of the Southern Baptist Ethics Commission, said: “**Sam Allberry is a gift to the church. We need his voice!**”

The following points will demonstrate HOW UNBIBLICAL and DANGEROUS these ideas are!

*** WHAT IS SAME SEX ATTRACTION?

“Same sex attraction” is an ambiguous term, what does it mean? This is one fundamental part of the problem with discussions on this topic.

Worldly terminology and worldly concepts are often used rather than Biblical ones. Calling it an “attraction” makes it seem no different than how a man could notice the objective beauty of a woman without lusting after her in his heart, however this is inaccurate.

When we ask if same sex attraction is sinful, **the question is not** whether finding someone objectively beautiful is sinful. A man could be attracted to women *and men* in this sense and no one

would say it is sinful. For example, David is described as “*a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance*” (1 Sam. 17:42), mothers can say that their children are handsome or beautiful, etc. This is clearly not the sense of the term when talking about same sex attraction, or else it is a pointless distinction because everyone experiences this.

*** SAME SEX ATTRACTION IS NOT A TEMPTATION

Some have suggested that SSA is a merely temptation and since Jesus was tempted and remained sinless, being attracted to the same sex is not sinful. However, this is a fundamental misunderstanding of the relationship between temptation and desire.

Temptation is the “*solicitation of the passions*” or an enticement of a desire (whether that desire is good or bad). “*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed*” (James 1:14).

ONE CANNOT BE TEMPTED [drawn away] BY SOMETHING ONE DOES NOT DESIRE! Jesus’ desire for food was not sinful (Mat. 4:3), but it is sinful to desire an excess of something good (Col. 3:5), or to desire a particular thing that is not yours to desire (Deut. 5:21; Ex. 20:17).

[The many temptations for Jesus to sin where in NO SENSE greeted with an inward drawing within him... there was NO desire in His mind or heart to heed the OUTWARD calls to sin.

The FLOOD of temptations coming to Him were more than we can imagine... but again they were NEVER greeted with an INWARD,

FROM HIS HEART temptation to yield or to feed what enemies threw at Him!]

Additionally, some desires are sinful in and of themselves because THERE IS NO CIRCUMSTANCE WHEREIN IT WOULD BE LAWFUL TO HAVE IT, feed it, or act it out. The Bible describes same sex attraction as the habitual desire for “*strange flesh*” (Jude 7), having “*vile affections*” (Rom. 1:26), or being “*without natural affection*” (Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3).

Temptation for [Being drawn away for] something that is wrong in its very essence (such as fornication, adultery, sodomy, pedophilia, bestiality, etc.) **is an enticement of a desire for that thing— thus the temptation is drawing from an already wicked desire. THE DESIRE FOR THE SIN IS ITSELF SINFUL! FLEE FROM IT!**

Having ‘SEXUAL, romantic, and deep emotional attractions to people of the same sex’ is a desire for that which is TOTALLY OFF LIMITS of what God permits— EVEN AS a man ‘having ‘SEXUAL, romantic, and deep emotional attractions’ to someone else’s wife... or toward your neighbor’s child!’

***** SEXUAL ATTRACTION IS AN AFFECTION**

Affection is “*A bent of mind towards a particular object, holding a middle place between disposition, which is natural, and passion, which is excited by the presence of its exciting object. **Affection** is a permanent bent of the mind, formed by the presence of an object, or by some act of another person, and existing without the presence of its object....Desire; inclination; propensity, good or evil; as, virtuous or vile affections. Romans 1:31. Galatians 5:24.*”

Affections can be good or bad in themselves. They are good when they are directed at something good (e.g. 1 Chron. 29:3; Col. 3:2).

They are bad when they are excessive (e.g. “*inordinate affection*,” Col. 3:5) or directed at something sinful (e.g. “*vile affections*,” Rom. 1:26, or being “*without natural affection*,” Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3).

*** SAME SEX ATTRACTION IS A “VILE AFFECTION”

Homosexual desire is not analogous, [comparable], to heterosexual desire. Man desiring woman is not sinful in itself because that is the way God made men (Gen. 2:18; 3:16). **Man desiring man is sinful in itself because it is not the way God made men**, so Scripture calls it “*vile affections*” (Rom. 1:26). **Heterosexual desire is often sinful** because it is misdirected in a particular or excessive way (e.g. toward a particular woman who is not one’s spouse)— **not because** it is sinful in essence! **But homosexual desire** is sinful in its very essence, just as, (in the same manner and way as) fornication, adultery, pedophile, or bestial desires are always sinful.

Whether homosexual proclivity [leaning, tendency] **is** innate [unlearned, a natural leaning] in some people **or** acquired, **the proclivity [TENDENCY] itself is “against nature”** (Rom. 1:26) and must be repented of. This is not true of heterosexual proclivity, which is natural and good by God’s design. [WE ARE ALL BORN AS FALLEN SINNERS. We all have a tendency to various sins; and not all the same sin. GOD, not us DECIDES WHAT IS and WHAT IS NOT SIN!]

The affection for the opposite sex is a natural and good inclination of the human mind, because that is how God made

men and women (Gen. 2:18; 3:16). **The affection for the same sex** is an “*unnatural*” and “*vile affection*” (Rom. 1:26) of the human mind because it militates against God’s design for human sexuality. Same sex attraction is sinful in itself while opposite sex attraction is not.

Opposite sex attraction only becomes sinful in two ways:

1) When the passions are aroused in an excessive way, what the Bible calls “*inordinate affection*” or “*evil concupiscence*” (Col. 3:5), or

2) When it is misdirected to an inappropriate particular object, such as toward a particular woman who is not one’s spouse (Deut. 5:21; Ex. 20:17). It is not sinful in the abstract, nor when husbands and wives are attracted to each other, **but same sex attraction can never be lawful in any circumstance.**

Concupiscence is “*Lust; unlawful or irregular desire of sexual pleasure. In a more general sense, the coveting of carnal things, or an irregular appetite for worldly good; inclination for unlawful enjoyments...’sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence.’ Romans 7:8.*” “There is a difference in saying ‘I have this propensity, but I believe it is wrong’ and saying ‘I have this propensity and I believe it’s alright.”

Sin is in the Heart, Not Just the Actions. Sin is not exclusive to the actions. Evil deeds and thoughts proceed from the heart (Mat. 15:18-19; Jer. 17:9; Mat. 7:16-18). **Not only are our deeds sinful,** the thoughts and desires are sinful as well. “*The Law is spiritual*” (Rom. 7:14), “*and so reaches the understanding, will, affections, and all other powers of the soul; as well as words, works, and gestures (Deut. 6:5; Mat. 22:37-39; Mat.*

5:27-28, 33-34, 37-39, 43-44)" (WLC Q. 99). **The seventh commandment requires** "*chastity in body, mind, affections, words, and behavior (1 Thess. 4:4; Job 31:1; 1 Cor. 7:34; Col. 4:6; 1 Pet. 3:2)*" (WLC Q. 138) and forbids "*all unclean imaginations, thoughts, purposes, and affections (Mat. 5:28; Mat. 15:19; Col. 3:5)*" (WLC Q. 139), it is not restricted to outward behavior.

STRONG REALITY: IF someone desires to have sex with children or animals they are still sinning **even if** they don't physically act on it. This is true for every other sin as well.

Sam Allberry, (a homosexual priest in the Anglican Church, and greatly sought after by key Southern Baptist and Evangelical leaders), **testifies:** "**I am same-sex attracted and have been my entire life. By that I mean that I have SEXUAL, romantic, and deep emotional attractions to people of the same sex.**" [THIS IS A WICKED CONFESSION and many bigtime religious leaders are bringing him to pulpits to spread his deceptions to unsuspecting church members.]

Jesus corrected the false teaching of the Pharisees that sin was only in the actions and not also in the heart. **Unrighteous anger** is a sin of the 6th commandment and is murder of the heart (Mat. 5:21-22).

Lusting after a woman who is not your spouse is a sin of the 7th commandment **and is adultery of the heart** (Mat. 5:27-28; Job 31:1). "**Inordinate affection**" and "**evil concupiscence**" (Col. 3:5) are sins of the desires and of the mind. Part of being in Christ is to crucify "*the flesh with the affections and lusts*" (Galatians 5:24), not just the external actions. All of this is true for the sin of homosexuality as well.

*** SAME SEX ATTRACTION MUST BE REPENTED OF

Being presently gripped with SSA does not necessarily mean that someone is reprobate, BUT A REGENERATE HEART WILL BE struggling against it, (not embracing and identifying oneself by it!); such ones will be crying out to God for repentance from it, not making excuses for it. **If or when** a genuine **Christian gives ground to Same Sex Attraction**, he or she must recognize that *** that attraction is sinful, *** turn away from it, and *** strive to mortify it by the sanctification of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:13) — EVEN AS HE OR SHE would deal with ‘adultery attraction, etc. In order to kill our flesh, we need to get to the root, our hearts (Mat. 7:16-20), where sinful sexual desires begin. In the case of homosexuality, sinful desires begin with the sin of same sex attraction. One must believe that his or her sinful desires are in fact sinful and CRY OUT TO God for the grace to repent from them and mortify them. WE DO NOT HAVE PERFECTION UNTIL HEAVEN! (1 Cor. 15:54). BUT THE REAL CHRISTIAN IS AT WAR WITH HIS/HER SIN! **Celibacy, refraining from actual homosexual acts, is not enough, [For such touted ‘celibacy’ is LACKING IN THE MIND!] IN THE BATTLE against any and all sin—** we must *“cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God”* (2 Cor. 7:1).

“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ***And that ye put on the new man***, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:22-24).

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should

know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:" (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). ***"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."*** (Romans 13:14). ***

Claiming that SSA is merely a temptation or a morally neutral "brokenness" from the Fall is UNBIBLICAL, DECEPTIVE, and ETERNALLY DANGEROUS for the souls who struggle with this particular sin. **Soothing same sex attracted people's consciences** by telling them that it's just a "broken condition" or merely a temptation and not sinful unless they act on it is only going to damn them to Hell. They need to be admonished to cry out to God for repentance!

[BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS!] *"From the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. They **have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.** Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the Lord. Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein."* (Jeremiah 6:13-16) *** THE ABOVE ARTICLE IS EDITED FROM: <https://purelypresbyterian.com/2017/07/10/is-same-sex-attraction-sinful/>

OTHER SITES FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION:

<http://www.christiandocctrine.com/in-the-news/society-and-culture/1931-sam-allberry-the-master-of-contradictory-statements>

<http://pastormathis.com/index.php/2017/07/26/russell-moore-southern-baptist-convention-and-the-heinousness-of-homosexuality/>

<http://pastormathis.com/index.php/2017/03/22/understanding-the-heinousness-of-homosexuality-from-the-confession-of-sam-allberry/>

<http://pastormathis.com/index.php/2017/06/14/does-the-gospel-coalition-believe-in-the-heinousness-of-homosexuality/>

GRACE TO ALL! James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— (This ministry is ON HOLD... PRAY FOR opening of doors!)

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

WEDNESDAYS: → 6:30pm— Young Family Prayer Time Beginning Wednesday, March 6, 2019, we will be offering a time of study and prayer geared toward **families with children in the nursery and pre-K class.** We will meet in Bethany's pre-k class at 6:30pm with a snack and fellowship time. ** After this will be a time of study; and learn a song related to the study. ** Then we will have a time of prayer where we will focus on one of the seven groups for whom the adults are praying. ** In this time we will discuss what missionaries are, what they do, and whatever else may be appropriate. We would also like to incorporate in this time an activity where we have a letter prepared to send to the missionaries. The children will sign it, draw pictures, etc., and we just encourage the missionaries by letting them know this class is praying for them. Following this we will have time to release some energy, either in the gym, or as the weather warms up, out on the playground. **THIS IS FOR PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN. IT IS NOT A 'DROP OFF YOUR CHILDREN' EVENT!**

→ 6:30pm— Youth Activities and Bible Study— enter, side double doors

➔ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE** ➔ Enter via **IRON STEPS**, side door



***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY—** Next meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, March 19, 2019 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, [*Doors open at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am*]

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:00am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! (***STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!***) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. [**DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits & Donuts at 7:30am!**]

****** SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

<http://www.southsidegallatin.org/>

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SUNDAY SERVICES, MARCH 10, 17, 24, 31

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

SPECIAL NOTES FOR SUNDAYS:

**** March 10— 5:30pm, Faithful Men... New study: 1689 Confession of Faith**

***** March 17— LORD'S SUPPER, at conclusion of morning worship // 5:00pm— HOME GROUPS**

****** March 24— 6:00pm... Church-wide, EQUIPING DISCIPLES...by DEVELOPING CHRIST-HONORING MARRIAGES!**

******* March 31— 6:00pm... 5th Sunday Evening PRAISE & Worship!**