

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 30, August 6, 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."***

THE SINFULNESS OF SSA!

Sam Allberry, (a homosexual priest in the Anglican Church, and greatly sought after by some key Southern Baptist leaders), has stated: "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.**"

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

REALITY— "Same sex attraction" [SSA], at the root, is simply a modern term designed to hide and excuse various forms of God-forbidden sexual LUSTS and practices. **Worldly terminology and worldly concepts are used rather than Biblical ones in blatant and/or blind attempts to hide, deny, and/or avoid conviction of sin.**

When we ask if same sex attraction is sinful, **the question is not** whether finding someone objectively beautiful is sinful. 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... and the experience of such is not an enticement to sexual sin.

Some have suggested that SSA is merely a temptation and since Jesus was tempted and remained sinless, being attracted to the same sex is not sinful. **TRUTH ALERT:** Neither Jesus nor any New Testament Christian took a temptation to sin (any sin!) and 'titled themselves' with that sin, and/or made excuses for that sin, etc.

EXAMPLE: Some of the new converts at the Church at Ephesus had been THIEVES. **They did not 'tag' themselves as 'Thief Attracted'**... they were not encouraged to give and/or to receive 'sympathy' for any ongoing temptations to steal. NO, THEY WERE TOLD: 1. DON'T STEAL. 2. WORK. 3. GIVE TO OTHERS. (Ephesians 4:28)

Temptation is the "solicitation of the passions" or an enticement of a desire (whether that desire is good or bad). As to that which God forbids, "*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 or our 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 rightfully ours to desire (Deut. 5:21; Ex. 20:17). **TRUTH ALERT:** 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 DESIRE FROM HIS HEART to yield or to feed upon what satan or other enemies threw at Him! (Matthew 4:1-10)

ATTRACTIONS/DESIRES: Some desires are sinful in and of themselves because THERE IS NO CIRCUMSTANCE WHEREIN IT WOULD EVER BE LAWFUL TO HAVE, feed, or act them out.

EXAMPLE: THERE IS NEVER ANY BIBLICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR SODOMY, FORNICATION, ADULTARY, GLUTTONY, PORNOGRAPHY, ETC. Therefore ANY 'attraction' for such IS SIN from which we are exhorted to repent and/or FLEE!

Same sex attraction [SODOMY 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).

Temptations [Being drawn away] for something that is wrong in its very essence (such as sodomy, fornication, adultery, pedophilia, bestiality, **PORNOGRAPHY**, etc.) **are enticements of a desire for that thing. Temptation to do evil is designed to activate sin; thus, the temptation is wicked. SUCH TEMPTATION IS WICKED; THE DESIRE FOR THE SIN IS ITSELF WICKED! Therefore, FLEE! Make NO PROVISION for the flesh!**

AFFECTIONS: *Affection* is a bent of the mind, responding to the presence of a person, an object, or by some act of another person, and involves desire; inclination; and can be good or evil; 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 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 [SSA / SODOMY ATTRACTION] IS A "VILE AFFECTION" Homosexual desire is NOT COMPARABLE to heterosexual desire. Man desiring woman [or Woman desiring a man] is not sinful in itself because that is the way God made men and women (Gen. 2:18; 3:16).

Man desiring man OR a woman desiring a woman is sinful in itself because it is not the way God made men, so Scripture calls it “vile affections” (Rom. 1:26).

OPPOSITE sex attraction becomes sinful when it is misdirected to an inappropriate particular object, such as toward a woman who is not one’s spouse (Deut. 5:21; Ex. 20:17). It is not sinful when husbands and wives are attracted to each other; but even there CAN BE sinful... if expressed in hateful, unloving ways.

IN CONTRAST, homosexual desire is sinful in its very essence, just as pedophile or bestial desires are sinful in their very essence; thus... to entertain and/or excuse and/or act out such sinful desires/feelings are ALWAYS the first steps that will always lead downward into more sin.

SODOMY/homosexual bias, proneness, inclination, leaning, etc. is **“against nature”** (Rom. 1:26) and must be repented of. This is not true of heterosexuality, which is natural and good by God’s design.... (SO LONG AS IT IS EXPRESSED according to GOD’S HOLY LAW) (Gen. 2:18; 3:16).

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)

TRUTH ALERT: “There is a VAST difference between CONFESSING, ‘I have this propensity, but I AGREE WITH GOD that it is sin; and I must AND I DO REJECT it and/or REPENT’... than, on the other hand saying ‘I have this propensity and I believe it’s alright...”

TRUTH ALERT: Sin is not exclusive to actions. Evil deeds 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)”

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)*” and forbids “*all unclean imaginations, thoughts, purposes, and affections (Mat. 5:28; Mat. 15:19; Col. 3:5)*”, it is not restricted to outward behavior. **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.

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 NEEDS TO BE REPENTED OF**

A REGENERATE HEART WILL HATE and FIGHT against SIN— not embracing and identifying oneself by the sin! A REGENERATE HEART will be crying out to God in repentance from it, not making excuses for SSA or any other sin. **THOSE who are attracted to the same sex** must recognize that the attraction is sinful, turn away from it, and strive to mortify it by the sanctification of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:13). In order to kill our flesh, we need to get to the root, our hearts (Mat. 7:16-20), where sinful sexual desires begin.

Celibacy, refraining from homosexual acts, is not enough, we must *“cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God”* (2 Cor. 7:1). **TRUTH ALERT:** The New Testament KNOWS NOTHING of ‘holding on to, excusing ANY SINFUL THOUGHTS’... BUT FEELING GOOD about yourself because you have not acted upon your thoughts. **TRUTH ALERT:** New Testament CELIBACY is not set forth in any context of battling with any sort of sexual temptations— but only in the context of dedicated service to God. (1 Cor. 7:30-38) The ability to stay single and serve God apart from marriage is a gift; and has ZERO CONNECTION with SSA PERVERSIONS.

GOD’S METHOD OF FIGHTING AGAINST SIN... including ALL FORMS OF SODOMY ATTRACTION!

*“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).

TRUTH ALERT: Claiming that SSA is merely a temptation or a morally neutral “brokenness” from the Fall is UNBIBLICAL, DECEPTIVE, and ETERNALLY DANGEROUS. **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 was drawn from: <https://purelypresbyterian.com/2017/07/10/is-same-sex-attraction-sinful/>]

WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL WAR ZONE!

FACE REALITY: I cannot **give myself to or give 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. Sinful thoughts as well as sinful deeds must be repented of! SAME SEX DESIRES, [SODOMY 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— even as any other sinful desire.

Ephesians 4:22-24 EXHORTS: 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

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.”

Without Christ we are powerless to change, but Christ changes all who trust Him. Willpower won't overcome sin. HOWEVER, those who are REGENERATED, BORN AGAIN by the Holy Spirit receive a new Spirit and new identity defined by Christ's work on the cross. GOD GIVES US a supernatural ability AND DESIRE to resist temptation and live joyfully in God's will. **LET NONE BE DECEIVED:**

“Or 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 effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

JESUS: *“...If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?”* (Luke 9:23-25)

JESUS: *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your*

souls.”

(Matthew 11:28-29)

TRUTH ALERT: It is loving, not hateful, to refrain from supporting sin and to kindly tell someone the truth about sin. “[Love] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.” (1 Corinthians 13:6)

REGARDLESS OF THE NATURE of one’s sinful past... it is now time, IN CHRIST, to go forward in grace: ** FOCUS ON THE renewing your mind (**Romans 12:1-2**). ** READ God’s word daily and pray. ** MEDIA INTAKE (TV, radio, social media, websites, music, FB, etc.)— LIMIT YOURSELF to that which honors Christ! ** BEWARE of anything or anyone that pulls you from God! ** ATTEND and get CONNECTED with a Bible-teaching, Christ-loving church that will tell you the BIBLICAL TRUTH about SSA and/or any other sin! ** REMEMBER: JESUS CAME TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS! ATTEND NO CHURCH THAT WILL NOT FULLY EMBRACE THAT FOUNDATIONAL REALITY!

Grace to all in Christ! James Bell

FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION:

<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/>

Great Grace to All! James Bell // www.southsidegallatin.org

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

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SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

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

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE** → Enter via **IRON STEPS, side door.** \ **WEDNESDAYS:** → **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— enter, side double doors.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Young Family Prayer Time!** THIS IS a time of Bible study and prayer geared toward **families with children in the nursery and pre-K class.**

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY— NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON AUGUST 20, 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's Fellowship/Bible Study:** EVERY SATURDAY @ **8:00am: (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!**]

SUNDAY SERVICES, AUGUST 11, 18, 25

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

**** AUGUST 11 — FAITHFUL MEN, 5:30PM... (1689 Confession of Faith)**

***** AUGUST 18 — LORD'S SUPPER, at the end of the Morning Worship**

HOME GROUPS... some at 5pm

****** AUGUST 25 — 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Church-wide EQUIPPING DISCIPLES by developing Christ-honoring Marriages: Paul David Tripp's 'WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? (Redeeming the Realities of Marriage)**

