

# gay relationships in the bible

Gay Relationships in the Bible: Exploring Historical Context and Interpretations

**Gay relationships in the bible** is a topic that has sparked much discussion, debate, and reflection among scholars, religious communities, and LGBTQ+ individuals alike. The Bible, a foundational text for many faith traditions, contains passages that various readers interpret in different ways concerning same-sex relationships. Understanding these scriptures requires a nuanced approach that takes into account historical context, language, and evolving interpretations over time.

## Understanding the Biblical Context of Gay Relationships

When approaching the subject of gay relationships in the Bible, it's crucial to recognize the cultural and historical backdrop against which these texts were written. The ancient Near Eastern societies that produced biblical writings had different social norms and concepts of sexuality than those we hold today. Terms and ideas about relationships, gender roles, and sexual behavior were framed within those societies' unique worldviews.

## Key Biblical Passages Often Discussed

Several passages are frequently referenced in conversations about homosexuality and gay relationships in the Bible. These include texts from both the Old and New Testaments:

- **Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13:** These verses from the Mosaic Law label male same-sex relations as an "abomination," which has historically been interpreted as a prohibition against homosexual acts.
- **Genesis 19:** The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is often cited, with some interpretations linking it to condemnations of homosexuality, although many scholars argue the sin described relates more to issues of hospitality and violence.
- **Romans 1:26-27:** Paul's letter discusses "unnatural" relations, which some interpret as condemning same-sex sexual activity.
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and 1 Timothy 1:10:** These passages include lists of wrongdoers that may reference homosexual behavior depending on translation.

# Language and Translation Challenges

One of the main difficulties in interpreting biblical references to gay relationships lies in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages. Words like "arsenokoitai" and "malakoi" in the New Testament have sparked debates among translators and theologians about their exact meanings. Some argue these terms refer specifically to exploitative or abusive relationships rather than consensual same-sex partnerships.

The challenge of translation highlights the importance of considering linguistic context and the possibility that modern concepts of sexual orientation do not neatly map onto ancient texts.

## Historical and Cultural Perspectives on Same-Sex Relationships

In many ancient cultures surrounding the biblical world, same-sex relationships existed but were understood differently from today. For example, in ancient Greece and Rome, certain male same-sex relationships were socially acknowledged, though often structured around age and status differences rather than equality.

## Same-Sex Relationships in Ancient Israelite Society

The biblical texts do not provide extensive detail about same-sex relationships in ancient Israelite society. However, some scholars suggest that the lack of positive mentions may stem from the patriarchal and procreative emphasis of these communities rather than outright condemnation of all same-sex bonds.

In addition, relationships between individuals of the same sex may have been recognized in forms that do not align with modern definitions of sexual orientation or marriage.

## Examples of Ambiguous or Positive Same-Sex Relationships

While explicit affirmations of gay relationships are scarce, some biblical relationships have been interpreted by modern readers as examples of deep same-sex love and commitment:

- **David and Jonathan:** The friendship between King David and Jonathan is described with language expressing profound love and loyalty, sometimes cited as a model of intimate same-sex bonds.
- **Ruth and Naomi:** Their story illustrates a close, devoted partnership between two women, often celebrated for its emotional depth and mutual support.

These examples remind us that love and companionship are complex and multifaceted themes in biblical narratives.

## **Modern Interpretations and the Role of Theology**

The conversation about gay relationships in the Bible continues to evolve within religious communities. Various denominations and theological traditions have developed differing stances on LGBTQ+ inclusion based on their readings of scripture.

### **Affirming Perspectives**

Many progressive theologians and churches emphasize the overarching biblical themes of love, justice, and inclusion. They argue that the Bible's core message supports affirming loving, committed same-sex relationships. In this view, some traditional passages are reinterpreted to reflect the cultural context of their time rather than eternal prohibitions.

### **Traditionalist Perspectives**

Conversely, some faith groups maintain that biblical texts clearly prohibit homosexual acts and thus oppose same-sex marriage and related affirmations. These perspectives often focus on the authority of scripture and the importance of adhering to traditional moral teachings.

### **Bridging the Divide**

Dialogue between these perspectives continues, with many seeking common ground in respect, compassion, and understanding. Some churches have introduced inclusive liturgies, pastoral care for LGBTQ+ members, and educational programs to foster deeper reflection on biblical interpretation.

## **How to Approach Biblical Texts on Gay Relationships Today**

For individuals and communities wrestling with questions about gay relationships in the Bible, several approaches can help foster informed and empathetic understanding:

1. **Contextual Study:** Consider the historical and cultural background of the texts to avoid anachronistic interpretations.

2. **Language Awareness:** Examine the original languages and consult multiple translations to grasp varied meanings.
3. **Theological Reflection:** Reflect on broader biblical themes such as love, justice, and mercy rather than isolated verses.
4. **Engage with Scholarship:** Read works by biblical scholars, theologians, and LGBTQ+ voices to gain diverse perspectives.
5. **Community Dialogue:** Participate in open conversations within faith communities to share experiences and insights.

These steps encourage a respectful and thoughtful approach that honors both the sacred texts and the lived realities of LGBTQ+ individuals.

## **Impact of Understanding Gay Relationships in the Bible on Faith and Society**

The way gay relationships in the Bible are interpreted has significant implications for religious practice, community acceptance, and social justice. As more faith communities embrace inclusive interpretations, many LGBTQ+ believers find greater affirmation and belonging.

This shift also influences broader societal attitudes toward equality and human rights, demonstrating how ancient scriptures continue to shape modern conversations about identity, love, and morality.

Exploring gay relationships in the Bible invites each person to engage deeply with faith, history, and the ongoing quest for compassion and understanding in a diverse world.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Does the Bible explicitly mention gay relationships?**

The Bible does not explicitly mention gay relationships as understood in modern terms, but it contains passages that have been interpreted as addressing same-sex behavior.

### **What are the key Bible verses often cited regarding gay relationships?**

Key verses include Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, and 1 Timothy 1:10, which are frequently referenced in discussions about homosexuality.

## **How do different Christian denominations interpret the Bible's stance on gay relationships?**

Interpretations vary widely; some denominations view the Bible as condemning homosexual acts, while others interpret the passages contextually and accept committed gay relationships.

## **Are there examples of same-sex relationships in the Bible?**

The Bible does not explicitly describe romantic same-sex relationships, but some scholars suggest that certain relationships, like David and Jonathan's, may indicate deep same-sex bonds.

## **What is the historical context of biblical passages on homosexuality?**

Many biblical passages were written in historical contexts with different cultural norms and may have addressed specific practices like temple prostitution or exploitative relationships rather than consensual same-sex relationships.

## **Can gay relationships be reconciled with Christian faith according to biblical teachings?**

Many Christians believe that loving, committed gay relationships can be reconciled with Christian faith by focusing on themes of love, fidelity, and justice in the Bible.

## **How do modern Bible translations address homosexuality?**

Modern Bible translations sometimes differ in wording, with some using terms like 'homosexuals' or 'men who have sex with men,' reflecting evolving language and scholarly interpretations.

## **What role does Jesus' teaching play in discussions about gay relationships in the Bible?**

Jesus does not directly address homosexuality, but his teachings on love, compassion, and non-judgment are often cited by those advocating for acceptance of gay relationships.

## **Additional Resources**

Gay Relationships in the Bible: An Analytical Review

**Gay relationships in the bible** have been a subject of extensive debate, interpretation,

and controversy within theological, academic, and social spheres. The Bible, as a foundational text for Judaism and Christianity, contains passages that are often cited either to condemn or to discuss same-sex relationships. Understanding the complex narrative around gay relationships in the Bible requires a nuanced exploration of historical context, linguistic interpretations, and evolving theological perspectives.

## Historical Context and Biblical Texts

The Bible was written over centuries in multiple languages, including Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. When examining gay relationships in the Bible, it is essential to consider the cultural and societal norms of the ancient Near East and Greco-Roman worlds. These contexts shaped the way relationships and sexuality were understood and recorded.

Several passages are frequently referenced in discussions about homosexuality. The most cited texts include:

- **Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13:** These verses explicitly prohibit “lying with a male as with a woman,” often interpreted as condemning male same-sex sexual activity.
- **Genesis 19:1-29:** The story of Sodom and Gomorrah, traditionally linked with condemnation of homosexual acts, though some scholars argue the passage focuses more on issues of hospitality and violence.
- **Romans 1:26-27:** Paul’s epistle to the Romans discusses “unnatural” relations, frequently interpreted as addressing same-sex behavior.
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and 1 Timothy 1:10:** These New Testament passages list behaviors considered sinful, including terms often translated as relating to homosexual acts.

## Linguistic Challenges in Interpretation

One major hurdle in analyzing gay relationships in the Bible is the ambiguity of key Hebrew and Greek terms. Words such as “arsenokoitai” and “malakoi” in the New Testament have been variously translated and interpreted, sometimes as references to male same-sex relations, other times as addressing broader issues of sexual exploitation or gender roles.

The Hebrew term “to’evah,” often translated as “abomination,” appears in Leviticus. However, its application in ancient texts varies widely, sometimes denoting ritual impurity rather than moral judgment. This linguistic complexity suggests that modern understandings of sexual orientation and identity may not align directly with ancient biblical categories.

# **Theological Perspectives and Evolving Interpretations**

The interpretation of gay relationships in the Bible has evolved significantly over time, influenced by changing cultural attitudes and advances in biblical scholarship.

## **Traditional Interpretations**

Historically, mainstream Judaism and Christianity have largely viewed gay relationships as incompatible with biblical teachings. The cited passages were often seen as clear prohibitions against homosexual acts, leading to doctrines that excluded or marginalized LGBTQ+ individuals within religious communities.

## **Progressive and Affirming Views**

In recent decades, many theologians and religious denominations have re-examined the biblical texts with more contextual sensitivity. Progressive scholars argue that the Bible does not address committed, consensual same-sex relationships as understood today but rather condemns exploitative practices such as temple prostitution or abusive acts.

Some affirming Christian communities emphasize the broader biblical themes of love, justice, and inclusion. They advocate for interpretations that recognize the legitimacy of gay relationships, challenging traditional readings that have historically been used to justify discrimination.

## **Notable Biblical Relationships and Interpretations**

While explicit examples of gay relationships as currently understood are scarce or debated in the Bible, certain narratives have been analyzed through the lens of same-sex intimacy or companionship.

### **David and Jonathan**

The relationship between David and Jonathan, recorded in 1 Samuel, is one of the most frequently discussed. Their bond is described with language of deep love and covenantal loyalty. Some scholars suggest the intensity of their relationship may indicate a romantic or sexual dimension, while others interpret it as a profound friendship within the cultural framework of the time.

## Ruth and Naomi

The story of Ruth and Naomi is another example often cited in discussions about biblical same-sex relationships. While traditionally viewed as a familial bond between a daughter-in-law and mother-in-law, some modern readers highlight the emotional closeness and mutual commitment expressed, exploring possibilities beyond conventional interpretations.

## Contemporary Impact of Biblical Interpretations on LGBTQ+ Communities

The way gay relationships in the Bible are understood has real-world consequences for LGBTQ+ individuals in religious contexts. Interpretations influence church policies, community acceptance, and the mental health of believers who identify as LGBTQ+.

## Pros and Cons of Traditional vs. Affirming Views

- **Traditional Views:** Often emphasize scriptural authority and continuity of religious doctrine. However, they can contribute to exclusion, stigmatization, and internal conflict for LGBTQ+ adherents.
- **Affirming Views:** Promote inclusivity and reinterpret scripture in light of contemporary knowledge about sexuality and identity. Critics argue these readings may depart from historical meanings or theological consistency.

## Role of Biblical Scholarship in Shaping Dialogue

Emerging biblical scholarship plays a critical role in bridging gaps between traditional religious teachings and evolving social attitudes. Through historical-critical methods, linguistic analysis, and cultural studies, scholars provide frameworks that allow for more nuanced discussions about sexuality in sacred texts.

## Conclusion: Navigating Complexity and Diversity

Exploring gay relationships in the Bible reveals a landscape marked by interpretive challenges, cultural shifts, and ongoing dialogue. While certain passages have been historically used to condemn same-sex relationships, contemporary scholarship and faith communities increasingly recognize the importance of context, language, and lived experience in understanding biblical texts.



The conversation about gay relationships in the Bible remains dynamic, reflecting broader societal changes and the diverse ways in which religious traditions engage with questions of sexuality and identity. As interpretations continue to evolve, the intersection of scripture, theology, and LGBTQ+ inclusion will undoubtedly remain a vital area of inquiry and reflection.

## [Gay Relationships In The Bible](#)

**gay relationships in the bible: Gay Relationships and the Bible** Scott McKernan, 2019-08-19 Are homosexual love and Jesus at odds with each other, or are gay relationships and the Bible perfectly compatible? Indeed, homosexual Christians can find that their sexual expression and identity are things that are found in, and originate with, God. Find out how we can all experience peace and wholeness with ourselves and God while the battle between people in same-sex relationships and the Church continues. In this new book, you will learn how to gain freedom from the oppression of those who say that gay relationships and Christ are incompatible. Give yourself the opportunity for self-acceptance and the right to be who you really are—who God made you to be!

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**gay relationships in the bible: Does the Bible Affirm Same-Sex Relationships?** Rebecca McLaughlin, 2024-05-15 Examines the arguments used to claim that the Bible affirms same-sex relationships. You may have heard the claim that the Bible, when read correctly, is not against believers entering monogamous, faithful same-sex relationships. The arguments sound quite compelling. Jesus never talked about same-sex relationships. “Paul was only condemning exploitative relationships, not consensual ones. “We don’t keep the Old Testament food laws, so why would we keep the ones on same-sex sex?” “If God is love, he can’t be against relationships of love.” And more. Have Christians through the ages just been getting this one wrong? In this concise book, Rebecca McLaughlin looks at ten of the most common arguments used to claim that the Bible affirms same-sex sexual relationships. She analyzes the arguments and associated Bible passages one by one to uncover what the Bible really says. For Rebecca, as someone with a lifelong history of same-sex attraction, this is not just an academic question. But rather than concluding that the Bible does affirm same-sex marriage, she points readers to the gospel purpose of male-female marriage, a different kind of gospel-centered love between believers of the same sex, and God's life-and-love-filled vision for singleness.

**gay relationships in the bible: Two Views on Homosexuality, the Bible, and the Church** Zondervan, 2016-11-29 Unique among most debates on homosexuality, this book presents a constructive dialogue between people who disagree on significant ethical and theological matters, and yet maintain a respectful and humanizing posture toward one another. Few topics are more divisive today than homosexuality. *Two Views on Homosexuality, the Bible, and the Church* brings a fresh perspective to a well-worn debate. While Christian debates about homosexuality are most often dominated by biblical exegesis, this book seeks to give much-needed attention to the rich history of received Christian tradition, bringing the Bible into conversation with historical and systematic theology. To that end, both theologians and biblical scholars—well accomplished in their fields and conversant in issues of sexuality and gender—articulate and defend each of the two views: Affirming – represented by William Loader and Megan K. DeFranza Traditional – represented by Wesley Hill and Stephen R. Holmes The main essays are followed by insightful responses that interact with their fellow essayists with civility. Holding to a high view of Scripture, a commitment to the gospel and the church, and a love for people—especially those most affected by this topic—the contributors

wrestle deeply with the Bible and theology, especially the prohibition texts, the role of procreation, gender complementarity, and pastoral accommodation. The book concludes with reflections from general editor Preston Sprinkle on the future of discussions on faith and sexuality. The Counterpoints series presents a comparison and critique of scholarly views on topics important to Christians that are both fair-minded and respectful of the biblical text. Each volume is a one-stop reference that allows readers to evaluate the different positions on a specific issue and form their own, educated opinion.

**gay relationships in the bible: Bible, Gender, Sexuality** James V. Brownson, 2013-02-03 Grapples conscientiously with biblical texts at the heart of the church's debate over same-sex relationships This thought-provoking book by James Brownson develops a broad, cross-cultural sexual ethic from Scripture, locates current debates over homosexuality in that wider context, and explores why the Bible speaks the way it does about same-sex relationships. Fairly presenting both sides in this polarized debate — traditional and revisionist — Brownson conscientiously analyzes all of the pertinent biblical texts and helpfully identifies stuck points in the ongoing debate. In the process, he explores key concepts that inform our understanding of the biblical texts, including patriarchy, complementarity, purity and impurity, honor and shame. Central to his argument is the need to uncover the moral logic behind the text. Written in order to serve and inform the ongoing debate in many denominations over the questions of homosexuality, Brownson's in-depth study will prove a useful resource for Christians who want to form a considered opinion on this important issue.

**gay relationships in the bible: Four (and a half) Dialogues on Homosexuality and the Bible** Donald J. Zeyl, 2022-02-07 Four (and a half) Dialogues on Homosexuality and the Bible explores four different interpretive approaches to biblical texts regarding homosexuality and same-sex marriage. Differences of interpretation are discussed openly, honestly, and charitably. The dialogues' four characters maintain friendship with each other despite their disagreements, and so the book serves as a model of how difficult, potentially divisive conversations on a controversial topic might be conducted. Three of the four perspectives presented for examination are well represented in the existing literature; the fourth is not as familiar and is offered and developed as a proposal for bridging the divide that persists among theologically conservative Christians who honor the authority of Scripture over their thinking and their living. Ongoing conflict over this issue is destructive of the unity toward which the Bible summons all believers to strive, and so the book includes also a call to create space for one another--both individually and institutionally--for differences in theological conclusions and in community practices. Each of the dialogues begins with one of the characters telling their personal story regarding their sexuality, continues with that character's case for their view, and concludes with a series of suggested discussion questions.

**gay relationships in the bible: Homosexuality and the Bible** R. Nicholas Black, 2014-11-30 As the conversation around homosexuality becomes increasingly hostile on all sides, it can be difficult to know where to stand as a Christian. You don't want to compromise God's Word, either by blindly following the culture or by treating others with hatred and contempt. How do you hold onto your convictions without projecting an image of ...

**gay relationships in the bible: The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage, New Edition with Study Guide** Mark Achtemeier, 2015-08-28 In the early 2000's, Mark Achtemeier embarked on a personal journey with the Bible that led him from being a conservative, evangelical opponent of gay rights to an outspoken activist for gay marriage and a fully inclusive church. In The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage, Achtemeier shares what led to his change of heart: the problems with excluding groups of people and the insights into the Bible's message that led him to recognize the fullness of God's love and support for LGBT persons. Readers will discover how reading snippets of Scripture out of context has led to false and misleading interpretations of the Bible's message for gay people. Achtemeier shows how a careful reading of the whole Scripture reveals God's good news about love, marriage, and sexuality for gay and straight people alike. This new edition includes a study guide and a new introduction from the author that reflects on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling and changes

within the church. Perfect for groups or self-reflection, the study guide directs readers over four sessions to explore both Achtemeier's book and the Bible.

**gay relationships in the bible:** The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage Mark Achtemeier, 2014-06-01 In the early 2000s, Mark Achtemeier embarked on a personal journey with the Bible that led him from being a conservative, evangelical opponent of gay rights to an outspoken activist for gay marriage and a fully inclusive church. In *The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage*, Achtemeier shares what led to his change of heart: the problems with excluding groups of people and the insights into the Bible's message that led him to recognize the fullness of God's love and support for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Readers will discover how reading snippets of Scripture out of context has led to false and misleading interpretations of the Bible's message about LGBT persons. Achtemeier shows how a careful reading of the whole Scripture reveals God's good news about love, marriage, and sexuality for gay and straight people alike.

**gay relationships in the bible:** *Scripture, Ethics, and the Possibility of Same-Sex Relationships* Karen R. Keen, 2018-10-11 WHEN IT COMES TO SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS, this book by Karen Keen contains the most thoughtful, balanced, biblically grounded discussion you're likely to encounter anywhere. With pastoral sensitivity and respect for biblical authority, Keen breaks through current stalemates in the debate surrounding faith and sexual identity. The fresh, evenhanded reevaluation of Scripture, Christian tradition, theology, and science in Keen's *Scripture, Ethics, and the Possibility of Same-Sex Relationships* will appeal to both traditionalist and progressive church leaders and parishioners, students of ethics and biblical studies, and gay and lesbian people who often feel painfully torn between faith and sexuality.

**gay relationships in the bible:** **Openly Gay, Openly Christian** Rev Samuel Kader, 2013-12 The Bible really is gay-friendly and affirming says Rev. Samuel Kader as he shows in his ground-breaking book what lessons can be learned from Scripture, history and experience. Here is direct language we find what is really contained in the Bible regarding homosexuality and gay relationships, and the results are truly surprising. Jonathan, an Old Testament Isrealite, was probably not only gay but in love with the same man (David) as his sister. Both brother and sister had a marriage ceremony of life commitment to King David in the Biblical account. But David declared he loved Jonathan the most. Ruth proclaimed undying love and commitment to her dear Naomi, and the words were so powerful that at heterosexual weddings ever since, people repeat the same vows at the altar. These issues and more are explored by Rev. Samuel Kader, a pastor in the flow of the gay Christian movement since 1975. Scriptural and anecdotal evidence is given to show that gay and Christian is a powerful move of God on earth. Rev. Kader's pastoral and personal insights make this pioneering book a must read for all people.

**gay relationships in the bible:** Christianity and Controversies over Homosexuality in Contemporary Africa Ezra Chitando, Adriaan van Klinken, 2016-05-12 Issues of homosexuality are the subject of public and political controversy in many African societies today. Frequently, these controversies receive widespread attention both locally and globally, such as with the Anti-Homosexuality Bill in Uganda. In the international media, these cases tend to be presented as revealing a deeply-rooted homophobia in Africa fuelled by religious and cultural traditions. But so far little energy is expended in understanding these controversies in all their complexity and the critical role religion plays in them. Complementing the companion volume, *Public Religion and the Politics of Homosexuality in Africa*, this book investigates Christian politics and discourses on homosexuality in sub-Saharan Africa. The contributors present case studies from various African countries, from Nigeria to South Africa and from Cameroon to Uganda, focusing on Pentecostal, Catholic and mainline Protestant churches. They critically examine popular Christian theologies that perpetuate homophobia and discrimination, but they also discuss contestations of such discourses and emerging alternative Christian perspectives that contribute to the recognition of sexual diversity, social justice and human rights in contemporary Africa.

**gay relationships in the bible:** **If You Seduce a Straight Person, Can You Make Them Gay?** John P. Elia, 1993 This breakthrough book shows the fissures in concepts of the gay and

lesbian identity and the one-sidedness of both biological essentialist and social constructionist versions of both sexual and gender identity. The editors present an alternative viewsexual and gender expression is a product of complementary biological, personal, and cultural influences in *If You Seduce a Straight Person, Can You Make Them Gay?* Through theoretical analysis, ethnographic and empirical data, and case studies, the editors show how it is difficult, if not impossible, to conceptually determine the origin of an individual's sexual expression. This thought-provoking book covers many topics that are sure to cause many readers to re-evaluate their thinking about the origins of gay and lesbian identity.

**gay relationships in the bible: God, Marriage, and Family** Andreas J. Köstenberger, David W. Jones, 2010 This updated edition of Köstenberger and Jones's landmark work tackles the latest debates and cultural challenges to God's plan for marriage and the family and urges a return to a biblical foundation.

**gay relationships in the bible: Marriage, Scripture, and the Church** Darrin W. Snyder Belousek, 2021-03-16 This book takes a distinctive approach to the same-sex-union debate by framing the issue as a matter of marriage. Darrin Snyder Belousek demonstrates that the interpretation of Scripture affects whether the church should revise its doctrine of marriage for the sake of sanctioning same-sex union. Engaging charitably yet critically with opposing viewpoints, he delves deeply into what marriage is, what it is for, and what it means as presented in the biblical narrative and the theological tradition, articulating a biblical-traditional theology of marriage for the contemporary church. Afterword by Wesley Hill.

**gay relationships in the bible: The Beauty of Intolerance** Josh McDowell, Sean McDowell, 2016-02-01 Today's message of cultural acceptance is dangerously distorted and deceptive. In a world that shouts: If you truly care about other people, you must agree that their beliefs, values, lifestyle, and truth claims are equal and as valid as yours! it's no wonder our youth are confused. *The Beauty of Intolerance*--brand-new from Josh McDowell with son Sean McDowell--cuts through the confusion and points you back to the place where the only truth resides. . . Jesus Christ. Tied directly to the Heroic Truth initiative launched by the Josh McDowell Ministry, McDowell will share how a biblical view of truth can counter cultural tolerance and encourage a love and acceptance of others apart from their actions with a heart of Christlike compassion.

**gay relationships in the bible: "Same-Sex Marriage" Is an Oxymoron** Richard A. McKenzie, 2019-06-20 In the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, when the debate about same-sex marriage was active and leading to legislation, my wife and I followed the news avidly but with only one thought--same-sex marriage is wrong. As Christians, we believed in our marriage in church and in the vows taken. We could accept differences, and to us, the acts of civil union seemed to give same-sex couples an identity and a protection from abuse, which they were entitled to. When these acts were passed, it was not enough. Laws were passed to allow same-sex marriage, which to us, compounded the position. The element of same-sex couples denying their sexuality by contriving to become parents by utilizing, in some way, the services of the opposite sex seemed totally against the law of nature and the very sexuality that gays and lesbians had wanted legalized in the first place. Laws may be passed, but it does not mean that Christians and churches have to accept these laws as being scriptural and Christian. There is nothing in the Bible that supports same-sex marriage, yet general assemblies of denominations have approved same-sex marriage--often without the approval of individual congregations. This cannot be right in principle or practice. Sadly, my wife died in September 2015, but our united stance continues.

**gay relationships in the bible: God vs. Gay?** Jay Michaelson, 2011-10-25 A passionate argument for LGBTQ equality within religious communities--"a book for our times and a book for the ages" (EDGE) The myth that the Bible forbids homosexuality--the myth of "God versus Gay"--is behind some of the most divisive and painful conflicts of our day. In this provocative and game-changing book, scholar and activist Jay Michaelson shows that the Bible does not prohibit same-sex intimacy but does quite the opposite. In fact, the vast majority of the Bible's teachings support the full equality and dignity of LGBTQ people, from the first flaw it finds in creation ("It is

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**gay relationships in the bible: From Christianity to a True Believer: Same-Sex Relations and the Bible** Anita L. Nottuh, 2017-05-26 They say being gay is wrong: this is preached everywhere. And tragically, because of this widely held belief, many who are attracted to members of their same sex have been ignored, judged, or even demonized. But what if we've been taught a lie? What if the Bible doesn't condemn same-sex relationships as we once believed? Anita L. Nottuh believes the homophobia so prevalent in modern times results from a fundamental misunderstanding of scripture—a misunderstanding that's perpetuated by deceptive teachings. In *From Christianity to a True Believer*, she argues against the traditional mind-set that homosexuality is a sin. Mrs. Nottuh dissects the Bible verses so often used to condemn same-sex attraction, delving into both the Old and the New Testaments. She also confronts specific Bible reference materials that appear to mislead Christians and non-Christians on this sensitive topic. Most importantly, she brings to light a scriptural account that casts same-sex attractions as not only allowable but beautiful and profound. This book is not just for Christians. The teachings of Christianity affect many others well outside of the church. This thoughtful analysis will turn long-held beliefs on their heads—and will set many readers free to embrace the lives their hearts desire.

**gay relationships in the bible: Jesus and the Shamanic Tradition of Same-Sex Love** Will Roscoe, 2013 Originally published by Suspect Thoughts Press, 2004; Updated by the author and re-released by Lethe Press, 2013.

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