

# What The Bible Says About

## The Family (Part 3)



Good Hope  
Baptist Church

Living Together In The Love Of God

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In our Sunday School class last Sunday I was asked several questions about homosexuality. What prompted the questions was a motto that the homosexual movement is pushing now, which is,

### Gay is the new Black

What they mean by this statement is that - like Black Americans - they are born the way that they are. They are *genetically predisposed* to homosexuality and homosexual behavior and, just as the black man cannot change his skin color, neither can the homosexual change his or her behavior.

I hear "people are born homosexual". Is that true?

So is it true? Are people born homosexual? **Dr. Julie Harren** wrote in her article *Homosexuality 101: What Every Therapist, Parent, and Homosexual Should Know*:

".... when asked if homosexuality was rooted solely in biology, gay gene researcher, Dean Hamer, replied, "Absolutely not. From twin studies, we already know that half or more of the variability in sexual orientation is not inherited. Our studies try to pinpoint the genetic factors...not negate the psychosocial factors" (Anastasia, 1995, p. 43). In addition, brain researcher Simon LeVay has acknowledged that multiple factors may contribute to a homosexual orientation (LeVay, 1996). "

There is *absolutely no evidence* that homosexuals are - like a black person - born that way. This is chanted



frequently on television and through liberal news channels because homosexual activists know that **the more you repeat a thing - regardless as to validity - the more valid it sounds.** The truth, however, is quite different. The **American Psychological Association** stated in the pamphlet, *Answers To Your*

*Questions About Sexual Orientation And Homosexuality:*

**"... many scientists share the view that sexual orientation is shaped for most people at an early age through complex interactions of biological, psychological and social factors."**

Gay is NOT the new black. The "Gay Brain" Researcher **Simon LeVay** reported in the book *Queer Science* (MIT Press):

**"At this point, the most widely held opinion [on causation of homosexuality] is that multiple factors play a role."**

Gay is NOT the new black. **Dennis McFadden**, University of Texas neuroscientist was quoted in the article *"Scientists Challenge Notion that Homosexuality's a Matter of Choice"* (The Charlotte Observer, August 9, 1998):

**"Any human behavior is going to be the result of complex intermingling of genetics and environment. It would be astonishing if it were not true for**

**homosexuality."**

Gay is NOT the new black. **Sociologist Steven Goldberg** wrote in his book *When Wish Replaces Thought: Why So Much of What You Believe is False.* (Buffalo, New York: Prometheus Books):

**"I know of no one in the field who argues that homosexuality can be explained without reference to environmental factors."**



Gay is NOT the new black. In his paper *"Myths and Misconceptions About Behavioral Genetics and*

*Homosexuality"* **Dr. Douglas A. Abbott** (the professor of Child, Youth, & Family Studies at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln) wrote:

**"there is no undisputed evidence that same-sex behavior is hard-wired in the brain. Genes are complex strands of DNA that through the processes of transcription and translation, direct the synthesis of amino acids into larger proteins that influence cell structure and functioning"** (How Genes Work, 2007; Schwartz & Azar, 1981). **Complex social activities such as sexual behavior cannot be directly traced to the activity of a single gene** (Parens, Chapman & Press, 2006; Peele, 1995; Rutter, 2006) . "

If homosexuality is not genetic and not the new black, then what leads to it? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Dr. Julie Harren** a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist explains it with this formula:

Genes + Brain Wiring + Prenatal Hormonal Environment = Temperament

Parents + Peers + Experiences = Environment

Temperament + Environment = Homosexual Orientation

Up to now you've probably been wondering, "Why is David wasting all his time on this "Gay is the new black" thing, rather than talk about our subject for tonight?" Now you see. The **genes, brain wiring, and prenatal hormonal development** give each and every one of us a certain temperament.

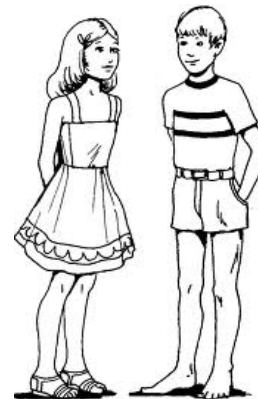
Temperament alone, though, does not lead one to the homosexual lifestyle. It is **temperament PLUS environment that leads to homosexual orientation.**

**Dr Harren** goes on to write:

"Gender identity is formed through the relationships that a child has with the same-sex parent and same-sex peers. The process of gender identification begins approximately between age two and a half and four. For boys, it is during this phase that they begin to move from their primary attachment with the mother to seeking out a deeper attachment with the father. For males, the relationship between a boy and his father is the initial source of developing a secure gender identity. It is



through the father-son relationship that a boy discovers what he needs to know about being male, including who he is as a boy, how boys walk, how they talk, how they act, and so forth. As the father spends time with the son, shows interest in the son, and gives the son affirmation and affection, the father imparts to the son a sense of masculinity. The boy begins to develop a sense of his own gender by understanding himself in relation to his father. When the child reaches the age of five, he begins to face another task, that is, to begin to attach to same-sex peers. At this age, he starts school and begins to look to the other boys to answer the same questions that his dad has been answering. He looks to the other boys to discover how they walk, how they talk, how they play, and how he measures up in relation to them. He seeks to be included, accepted, and acknowledged. Through the relationships he forms with other boys, he continues to gain a sense of masculinity, discovering more about others boys and therefore more about himself as a boy. During the early years of elementary school, children are not usually very interested in playing with members of



the opposite sex. They desire to spend time with members of the same sex. This is a very necessary stage of development, because a person cannot be interested in the opposite sex or in others, until he or she first understands himself or herself. Eventually, after many years of bonding with members of the same sex, the boy enters puberty. At

this time he begins to turn his attention to the opposite sex. He becomes curious about the gender which is different from his own, the female gender. With the simultaneous emergence of puberty, this curiosity becomes a sexual interest and a desire for romantic connection with the opposite sex.

Conversely, for the child who will develop a homosexual orientation, this process does not happen. So, what happens in the development of gender identity that would lead a child to have same-sex attractions? Typically, for this child, there is something that prevents him from attaching to the father. Either he doesn't have a father or a father figure, or he doesn't have a father who he perceives as safe and/or welcoming. Of course, there are many children who grow up without fathers and yet do not develop a homosexual orientation. In addition, there

are many children who have loving fathers, yet still become homosexually oriented. This is due to the fact that there are various factors that contribute to a homosexual orientation. Human

development is very complex and includes events, as well as perceptions about the events.



Go Ask  
Your  
Father

Think back to the 1950's, 1960's, and early 1970's. How widespread was homosexuality at that point? Very little. You never heard of it on television, it was a scandal if

anyone professed to be a homosexual, and at that time "gay" was a synonym of "happiness". Most families were two parent families, and in many of them the father provided for the family while the mother provided for the home. Even in families where both parents worked there was a strong emphasis on *gender identification*.

How has *gender identification* in children's toys changed just in your lifetime? \_\_\_\_\_



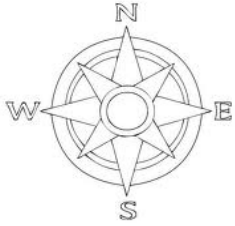
When a child was expected and it was supposed to be a boy, presents that were given at the baby shower were *footballs*, *cowboy outfits*, and the nursery was decorated with masculine, boy-like things. Little girls were given *dolls*, *Easy Bake*



*Ovens*, and other feminine girl-like things. As the role of feminism increased in America and the role of the father was devalued, homosexuality began to rise and eventually be glamorized by television and news. Like pouring gasoline on a fire, the decentralization of the family, the deconstruction of the father/mother family, and the rise of the one parent family led to further increases in homosexual behavior.

### Family Matters

**FOCAL** Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.



The environment that the child grows up *in* will determine in many cases what the child will grow up to *be*.

It is true that there are parents - father and mother - who raise their children "**in the nurture and admonition of the Lord**", and that these children grow up to be thugs or worst. A parent can do everything right and the child still go wrong, for **the child has free will**. It has the ability to choose it's environment outside of the family. However, the child that is raised up **in the Lord** is more likely to **be right** than the child that is not raised at all and is left on its own. The Bible teaches:

**Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.**

When God established His nation Israel and led them away from Egypt, the first thing He did was give Israel *ten commandments* on which they were to build their society. The **fifth commandment** told God's people:

**Exodus 20:12 Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.**

The child was commanded to **honor - show respect to and obey - Father and Mother**. Have you seen instances where children did not honor their parents? What did you see? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This command was tied to a warning, for the Lord said "**thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee**". Children who are disobedient to their parents grow up to be disobedient, lawless adults. God told the children, "**If you want to grow up and inherit the land that I'm going to give you, then you need to honor (obey and respect) your parents.**"

Obedience and order is established *first* in the family, *then* in society. Disobedient children turn into disobedient and lawless adults.

**FOCAL** Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

**Word Study** Children are called to **obey their parents**. Please note that **parents** is PLURAL, not singular. The child is called to **obey both parents, both Father AND Mother**. Now let's look at the word translated "**obey**".



In chapter 5 of Ephesians we saw that the wife was to "**submit**" to the husband, and noted that this is the Greek HUPOTASSO, a military term. It referred to "**following the Godly direction of the husband**". The word "**obey**" is not HUPOTASSO, but it is the word HUPAKOUO. The words are similar, but not the same. HUPAKOUO means "**to listen attentively to so as to heed or conform to the command**".

What is the Lord telling the children? \_\_\_\_\_

It amazes me the number of children I see today who profess to have A-D-D, or Attention Deficit Disorder. I'm not saying that this isn't a real thing - many people do suffer from this - but my Daddy fixed my A-D-D by paddling my B-U-T-T. A lot of people might think that to be extreme, but the Law of Moses was much more extreme. It said:

**Deuteronomy 21:18-21** If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and [that], when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: 19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; 20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This



our son [is] stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; [he is] a glutton, and a drunkard. 21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

Is there any evidence that Israel ever did this? No, none that I can see. The Scripture never tells us that even one child was stoned for rejecting parental authority. But the principle is in Scripture to show us something.

**God expects the child to heed and obey the parents - and expects the parents to raise the children according to His Word.** When children will not obey and are not trained, they grow up to bring evil \_\_\_\_\_

**Colossians 3:20** Children, obey [your] parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

It pleases God when children **obey their parents in ALL things**. It is the parent's duty - not the State and not the Church but the PARENT - to raise their children. And it is the child's duty to heed and do as the parents ask. The Apostle quotes **Exodus 20:12 (the fifth commandment)** saying:

**FOCAL** **Ephesians 6:2-3** Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Note a couple of things on this verse. First of all, it tells the children to **honor their fathers first**. It doesn't say "**Honor your mothers and fathers**" but "**honor your fathers and mothers**". The father and husband is to be the head of the household, and very active in the training of his children. This is emphasized in the next verse,

which says:

**Ephesians 6:4** And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The **fathers** are to lead in training their children. They are not to be heavy handed with them, but fair and just and Biblical in how they raise their children.

Which parent is to take the lead in training the children? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Illustrate** When I was growing up my best friend and neighbor was **Joey**. Joey was a few years older than I was, and he was - in many ways - my hero. I looked up to Joey. When Joey disobeyed, his daddy would make him take off his shirt and lean with both hands on the wall. Then he would beat Joey on his back with a belt. I know, I saw the marks. When Joey got old enough he went into the Marines. Right after he graduated Paris Island he came home, went to his bedroom, and killed himself. It was one of the saddest moments of my life.

**Word Study** Fathers are to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. "Nurture" is the Greek word PAIDEAI, which literally means "to educate, train, and chasten as need". The word "admonition" is the Greek "NOUTHESIA", which means "to warn and rebuke". Genuine love instructs

by both showing as well as by punishing as need be.

It is not love if there are no lines drawn. Love always sets Godly and achievable boundaries and then enforces those boundaries.

**Illustrate** There's a right way and a wrong way to shoot a gun. If you showing your son how to put the stock of the gun on his shoulder, sight it, and then shoot only once you know what you're shooting at, you wouldn't applaud him if he held the stock in front of him while pressing the barrel into his shoulder. You wouldn't say "Well done" if the child indiscriminately shot at any movement in the trees before he knew if it was a deer or a man named Doug. You wouldn't pat him on the head if he sucked on the barrel like it was a pacifier. No, you would draw lines of instruction, then require he stay within those lines. The goal would always be achievable (**do not provoke your children to anger**) and always clearly defined. **Richard Fugate**, the author of *"What the Bible Says ... About Child Training."* wrote:



"... parents are to provide for and comfort their children; but they are also required to set and enforce righteous standards for them. The practice of Christian love in parenting is exercised when parents combine the righteousness of setting legitimate standards for their children with the justice of fairly

**punishing for disobedience. It is in a child's best interest to learn right from wrong as well as to develop self-control over his self-centered nature."**

It is for the child's own future good - as well as for society itself - that the child must be raised in a Biblical manner. **King Solomon** told his son:

**Proverbs 23:19-22** Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way. **20** Be not among



winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: **21** For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe [a man] with rags. **22** Harken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

The children of yesterday who were allowed to run wild and were taught no work ethic are part of the reason why America is on an "Entitlement" track right now. We are trillions of dollars in debt because we have too many people who grew up getting everything laid out for them by their parents. As a result they now expect *everything* from *everyone*. God told the children of Israel:

**Deuteronomy 6:5-9** And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. **6** And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: **7** And

thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. **8** And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. **9** And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

The Word of God must be in the parent's hearts first - then that Word must be imparted to the children. Children need to visibly see the parent's faith, else they see it as no more than hypocrisy. The Word of God is to be proclaimed and upheld in the family. The parents - especially the fathers - are to **teach their children the ways of God**. Children are to be attentive to that instruction so that they will be blessed and a blessing.

While children are at home, their parents are to teach them how to be good and giving citizens. **Good citizenship starts \_\_\_\_\_**

God gives us the perfect example of parenting in how He parents us. He tells us in the Book of Hebrews:

**Hebrews 12:5-11** And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: **6** For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. **7** If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth

not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected [us], and we gave [them] reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened [us] after their own pleasure; but he for [our] profit, that [we] might be partakers of his holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

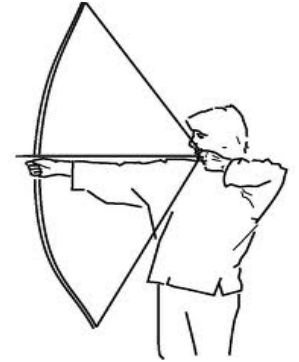
This verse teaches us a number of things about parenting.

**1** A child will not *despise chastening* - but will end up despising the parent that will not chasten. The Bible says "Whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth - He corrects". Then it goes on to say, "without chastening, you are bastards (illegitimate children) and not sons". When no lines are drawn for the children, they begin to feel that they are unloved. An unloved child will eventually mirror that back to the parent.

**2** God chastens all of His children - He applies discipline equally. He has no favorites, and a parent should have no favorites either. Every child is a blessing from God:

**Psalms 127:3-5** Lo, children [are] an heritage of the LORD: [and] the fruit of the womb [is his] reward. 4 As arrows [are] in the hand of a mighty man; so [are]

children of the youth. 5 Happy [is] the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.



The Psalmist illustrates how *every child is equally a blessing* to the family. The parents should view each child as an arrow:

**a** An arrow has *potential*, and every child has potential. The ignored child and the ignored arrow will never live up to their potential.

**b** For an arrow to be useful, it must not be warped. The child is cared for and kept straight and sharp by the parents.

**c** While the arrow is in the quiver, it stays in the hands and the possession of the user. While the child is at home and under your care, he is your responsibility, Father and Mother!

**d** There is a right time and a right way to release the arrow, and there is a right time and a right way to release the child. The purpose of the parents is not to smother the child, but to train the child until the child can leave the family and do some good. Don't send the child out too soon.

Back in 2008 a columnist for the New York Sun earned

the title of "**America's Worst Mom**". **Lenore Skenazy** left her 9 year old son **Izzy** at Bloomingdale's in midtown Manhattan with a Metrocard for the subway, a subway map, \$20, and told him she'd see him when he got back home. She didn't leave him with a cell phone, for she thought he might lose the cell phone. In my opinion 9 years old is a little young to be riding the New York subway.

**e** **If the hunter cares for his arrows, they will in time bring him a reward.** If parents raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, they will bless their parents later in life. As the Scripture tells us:

**Proverbs 29:15** **The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left [to himself] bringeth his mother to shame.**

**3** **God never just punishes us. Discipline is always positive as well as negative.** Fathers are told **not to provoke their children to wrath.** Give encouragement and praise as well as punishment when warranted.

Children are the tomorrow of the Church and the nation. May God bless you as parents and grandparents in raising these children for His glory.

