



Same-Sex Attraction:

Expanding the Dialogue

The Power of Words

Words can Constrict Dialogue

(Limit Possibilities)

Words can Expand Dialogue

(Open Up Possibilities)

A Three-Tier Distinction

Too Much Focus on Cause(s) of Homosexuality /
Same-Sex Attraction

A Three-Tier Distinction is a Better Focus:

Same-Sex Attraction (6% Men 4.5% Women)

Same-Sex Orientation (2% Men 1% Women)

Sexual Identity (We Don't Know)

Understanding the “Script”

What’s the Starting Point?

Faith, Identity in God

Sexuality / Attractions



Sexuality / Attractions



Faith, Identity in God

Understanding the “Script”

The Gay Script:

Same-Sex Attraction is a **Signal** Designed by God as a Distinction between Homosexuality, Heterosexuality, and Bisexuality.

Same-Sex Attraction is the **Way to Know Who you Really Are.** It is the “Core of who You Are.” It is Your “**Identity.**”

Same-Sex **Behavior** is an Extension of that Core.

Behavior that Matches Who You Really Are = Sexual **Fulfillment** and Sexual Identity

Understanding the “Script”

The Gay Script:

The “Discovery” Metaphor is very Powerful:
Attractions help you Discover who you Really Are.

The Three-Tiers all Collapse into One Tier:
Attraction / Orientation Collapse into Identity

The “Coming-Out” Story becomes an Act of
Courage

Understanding the “Script”

The Alternative, Non-Gay Script:

Same-Sex Attraction **does not Signal** a Distinction between Homosexuality, Heterosexuality, and Bi-Sexuality.

Same-Sex Attraction may one part of your Experience, but **not the Defining Aspect** of your Identity.

Same-Sex Behavior is Separate from Attraction / Orientation.
Behavior and Identity are Choices.

A Person can **Choose** to Integrate Attraction / Orientation around Other Aspects of Identity: Christ, Gender.

Understanding the “Script”

The Alternative, Non-Gay Script

The “Integration” Metaphor: A Person can “Choose” what to do with Behavior and Identity.

The Three-Tiers are Separate:

Attraction / Orientation / Identity

The “Identity” Story becomes an Act of
Declaration

A Sacred Calling/Vocation

What to do with this inner wound that is so easily touched and starts bleeding again? I don't think this wound - this immense need for affection and this immense fear of rejection - will ever go away.

It is there to stay, but maybe for a good reason. Perhaps it is a gateway to my salvation, a door to glory and passage to freedom.

Henri Nouwen

Historic Christianity

I take it for certain that the physical satisfaction of homosexual desires is sin. This leaves the [homosexual] no worse off than any normal person who is, for whatever reason, prevented from marrying . . . Our speculations on the cause of the abnormality are not what matters and we must be content with ignorance.

The disciples were not told why (in terms of efficient cause) the man was born blind (John 9:1-3), only the final cause, that the works of God [should] be made manifest in him.

Historic Christianity

This suggests that in homosexuality, as in every other tribulation, those works can be made manifest, i.e. that every disability conceals a vocation, if only we can find it.

C. S. Lewis