

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Can Same-Sex Attraction Become Sinful?

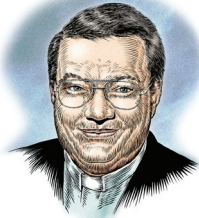
Know This...

God designed male and female bodies that they might come together in marital intimacy and bring forth life. Same-sex intimacy can't bring forth life. Just as the Holy Spirit is the eternal bond of love between the Father and the Son, children embody the love between a father and a mother. No other human relationship can fulfill God's plan of love and intimacy, because no other sexual intimacy can achieve the unique and full potential that marital intimacy expresses and attains. Same-sex attraction in and of itself is not sinful; but same-sex intimacy is unnatural, sinful, and intrinsically disordered.



John: Just as heterosexual acts outside of marriage are sinful, homosexual acts—which are always outside marriage—are sinful. Homosexual activity goes against natural and divine law.

James: God, through His Church, proclaims the dignity of all human persons but rejects the world's recognition of same-sex unions.



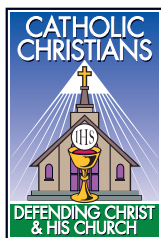
John: God creates every man and woman in His own image, instills within them equal dignity, and calls men and women to acknowledge and accept their sexual identities.

James: In reference to divorce, Jesus says, "From the beginning it was not so." *Mt. 19:8* This can also be said about homosexual behavior and same-sex union—both fall outside of God's plan for us.

John: Paul says that God won't let us be tempted beyond our strength. He will provide a means of escape and a way to endure the temptation. (*1 Cor 10:13*)

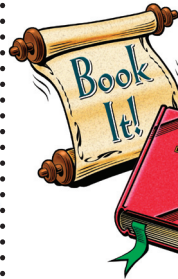
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Jesus reveals that our words and actions can defile us. "What comes out of a person, that is what defiles. From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile." *Mk 7:20-23*

"He who is guilty of unseemliness with males will be under discipline for the same time as adulterers." *St. Basil the Great, 367 A.D.* "If you are young in either body or mind, shun the companionship of other young men and avoid them as you would a flame. For through them the enemy has kindled the desires of many and then handed them over to eternal fire." *St. Basil the Great, 373 A.D.* "[T]hose shameful acts against nature, such as were committed in Sodom, ought everywhere and always to be detested and punished. If all nations were to do such things, they would be held guilty of the same crime by the law of God, which has not made men so that they should use one another in that way." *St. Augustine, 400 A.D.* "Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that 'homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered.' They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved." *CCC 2357*



"All the townsmen of Sodom... closed in on the house. They called to Lot, 'Where are the men who came to your house tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have intimacies with them.'" *Gen 19:4-5* "Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise acted immorally and indulged in unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire." *Jude 7* "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination." *Lev 18:22* "Men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another; men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in their own persons the due penalty for their error." *Rom 1:27* "Make no mistake: no fornicator or idolater, none who are guilty either of adultery or of homosexual perversion, no thieves or grabbers or drunkards or slanderers or swindlers, will possess the kingdom of God." *1 Cor 6:9-10*

Lord Jesus, in Sacred Scripture, Your Apostle Paul says that You give each of us the strength to resist and reject sinful behavior. My wounded nature opens me up to the temptations of this world. I pray that I will remain focused on You, Your Sacraments, and the eternal joy and happiness that await me in heaven—if I remain faithful to You. Grant me the grace necessary to follow You always and everywhere. Amen.

