



**Confronting  
Controversial  
Questions about  
Christianity**

This Summer at The Story Church you have the power to select which questions we will address from the pulpit! In FAQ, we'll look to the Bible to answer six controversial questions people ask about Christianity. We hope this series will encourage skeptics and equip believers to "give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" 1 Peter 3:15. Vote for next week's question: [www.thestory.church/vote](http://www.thestory.church/vote)



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### **May 31, 2026 - Part 2: Is Same-Sex Attraction Really an Abomination?**

Today's question is delicate and emotionally charged because almost everyone has been personally affected by its implications. **How has your life been impacted by the issue of same-sex attraction and the Bible?**

#### **The Story Church's Position on Marriage and Sexuality**

We affirm that Christian marriage and sexual intimacy are good gifts from God. In keeping with the teachings of Scripture historically and throughout the Church universal, we believe that Christian marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union. We believe that God intends faithfulness in Christian marriage and celibacy in singleness.

#### **The Bible's Most Explicit Passages on Same-Sex Intimacy**

**Lev 18:22** - Do not have sexual relations with a man as one has with a woman; that is detestable.

**Lev. 20:13** - If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable.

**Romans 1:26-27** - Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11** - Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

**1 Tim. 1:9-11** - The law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, murderers, the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers and whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel.

Despite the Bible's clarity on this issue, many people (including many Christians) continue to try to make the case for "full inclusion," same-sex weddings in the Church, and the ordination of out-and-proud LGBTQ+ clergy by employing three main arguments - **arguments that Pastor Eric used to make before he surrendered to the Lord in 2013.**

#### **3 Things Pastor Eric Used to Believe (and Why He Was Wrong)**

1. "The Bible never condemns homosexuality as we \_\_\_\_\_."

#### **An Excerpt from a Sermon Pastor Eric Preached in 2012**

*"Romans 1 is where we find the verses most commonly used against gay and lesbian Christians, but in the Roman culture Paul was addressing, it was an accepted practice for some grown men to step out on their wives and enjoy the private company of other grown men. Another common practice was the solicitation of young boy prostitutes by grown, married men. I'll tell you what wasn't happening in first century Rome: two men or two women settling down together, getting married, raising children, and contributing to society as a family. That wasn't an option for gay and lesbian people in Paul's world..."*

**Summarize the argument Pastor Eric made in 2012. Why does this argument fall short?**

In response to the claim that "no one in Paul's day knew about committed, ongoing same-sex relationships," New Testament scholar N.T. Wright said this:

I have to say that when I read Plato's Symposium, or when I read the accounts from the early Roman empire of the practice of homosexuality, then it seems to me **they knew just as much about it as we do**. In particular, a point which is often missed, **they knew a great deal about what people today would regard as longer-term, reasonably stable relations between two people of the same gender**. This is not a modern invention, it's already there in Plato. The idea that in Paul's day it was always a matter of exploitation of younger men by older men or whatever...of course there was plenty of that then, as there is today, but it was by no means the only thing. - NT Wright

**How does this dispute the assumption that stable, loving, same-sex relationships didn't exist in Paul's day?**

### **3 Things Pastor Eric Used to Believe (and Why He Was Wrong)**

2. "Jesus never said anything about \_\_\_\_\_."

#### **An Excerpt from a Sermon Pastor Eric Preached in 2012**

*"When you look at Jesus... the only sin that excludes people from his movement is the sin of being too self-righteous."*

#### **JESUS ON MARRIAGE (AND DIVORCE)**

**Matthew 19:4-6** - "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

**Matthew 19:9** - I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**, and marries another woman commits adultery."

When Jesus referred to the sin of "sexual immorality," how would he have defined that term, and based on what law or book? What does that say about Jesus' view of Old Testament sexuality laws?

Why was Pastor Eric wrong when he made this claim in 2012?

### **3 Things Pastor Eric Used to Believe (and Why He Was Wrong)**

3. "Christians \_\_\_\_\_ which Bible verses still apply today."

#### **Excerpt from a Magazine Article Pastor Eric Wrote in 2010**

*Until the Church is ready to also exclude people with psoriasis, women who are menstruating, those who've been divorced, and anyone who had bacon for breakfast (because all these are described as "unclean" in scripture), their efforts to use the bible as a weapon to exclude gay people will ring hollow... Since the beginning...the People of God have defined and redefined sinful behavior based on our contexts and our evolving understanding of God's will. For example, the bible doesn't say that holding slaves is sinful, and yet... we no longer believe slaveholding is compatible with Christian teaching.*

Why was Pastor Eric wrong when he wrote this in 2010? (See Mark 7:19, Acts 15:19-20)

Why is the issue of slavery a case of false equivalency? (See 1 Tim. 1:9-11)

What is the Bible's definition of an "abomination"? (See Prov. 28:9, Isaiah 1:13, Jeremiah 6:15, Ezekiel 18:12, **Luke 16:15**)

Based on this definition, who is guilty of committing abominations unto the Lord?

**Romans 5:8** - God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Why is this good news for everyone - regardless of orientation, identity, or sin?



### **Summer Core Classes Start THIS Week!**

Join Pastors Eric & Geo as they kick off Summer Core Classes this Wednesday, June 3rd, with a study on 1 & 2 Thessalonians. More Sunday Core Classes also start next weekend on the 7th! Learn more and register: **[thestory.church/groups](https://thestory.church/groups)**



### **Student Summer Hangouts**

Save the date for our Summer Hangouts for 6th-12th: Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8pm on June 7, July 12 and August 2! We'll have yard games, cookouts, and fun - so bring a friend to introduce them to our Student Ministry!



### **Vacation Bible School**

Registration is open for this year's VBS - June 22-25, 2026 from 9am to noon! VBS is open to children in PreK-4 through 5th grade. Visit **[thestory.church/vbs](https://thestory.church/vbs)** to learn more and register your children today.