

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM

*Speaker, Robert Emerson*

Study Sunday 10:00 AM

Worship Sunday 11:00 AM

Worship Sunday 5:00 PM

*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*

Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

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with us!

# The Bible . Examiner

*"Examine everything carefully..." –1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB*

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## (Bi) Sexual Sin

Having read the "Wiktionary" definition of "bisexual," someone asked me if indeed it is sin; and this is actually a very good question in view of the definition given: "Noun 1. (of humans or other animals) Sexually attracted to both men and women." First, is it true that someone "sexually attracted to both men and women" is bisexual; and second, is that attraction sin?

Some folks think that sexual behavior is in some way dirty; simply an animal kind of conduct. That is far from the truth; God designed sexual attraction to promote heterosexual behavior, and it is a blessing. As we read in Gen 2:24, "...a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." Not only did

He create the first couple as male and female, husband and wife, he told them to have many children (be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth), Gen 1:28—and that requires sexual behavior! In fact, He gave an entire book dealing with godly sexual intimacy: the Song of Solomon.

However, since the fall, much has changed. We have an attraction to a great many things; not all of them good. Attraction is not sinful in and of itself; but it can be misunderstood. It simply means that we are drawn to something; we have a desire for it—and that can be either for good or bad. For instance, the same word speaking of a man having a *strong desire* to serve as an elder in the church (1 Tim 3:1) is used of *lust* for a

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woman, Mt 5:32. What that means, though, is that it is through those strong desires (or attractions), we are tempted to do evil: “But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own *lust*,” Jas 1:14. Desire and temptation alone are not sin, otherwise our Lord would have committed sin, “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One *who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin*,” Heb 4:15 (cf Lk 22:15; Heb 2:18). What you do with that temptation can *become* sin: will you dwell on it? Will you act on it, or will you turn away?

One is not bisexual or homosexual based on attraction, although that is often what we hear today (remember the Wiktionary definition). If it were true, the one tempted to lie would already be a liar; the one tempted to steal would already be a thief; and the one tempted to commit *any* form of sexual immorality would already have committed it. You see, as Christians, our goal is that every attraction (temptation) be under God’s control—whether of the opposite or same sex: “...we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,” 2 Cor 10:5b.

Sadly, it is very easy to become confused about our thoughts because the world is trying to push toward perversion (a twisting of God’s design). Many

are encouraging young folks at younger and younger ages to decide what gender they *want* to be, disregarding what God through biology has determined they *are*; and this is at a time when they are most vulnerable to confusion simply because of normal body changes at puberty. And many other factors can affect our thought processes, such as molestation or other abuse, and poor family relationships.

The truth is that all sexual activity outside the boundaries God has set is sin no matter what gender combination we consider, including homosexuality, adultery, or simply sex outside of marriage, 1 Cor 6:9-11. While animals act on instinct, we do not; and we will be judged on that basis—“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad,” 2 Cor 5:10. Fortunately, while 1 Cor 6:9-11 defines sexual immorality as sin, it also shows that you need not remain in that sinful lifestyle—you can be “washed... sanctified... [and] justified.”

Simply being tempted to do something doesn’t define who you are; and that temptation does not have to end in sin. As Christians, we are not defined by what the world thinks we are; we are

defined by who we are in Christ—and in Christ we are forgiven of past sin. What’s more, God helps us to avoid sin in the future: “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of

escape also, so that you will be able to endure it,” 1 Cor 10:13.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory over sin, and therefore over death, through our Lord Jesus Christ (see 1 Cor 15:57)!

—Kris Vilander 

## The Anvil of God’s Word

Last eve I paused beside a blacksmith’s door  
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;  
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,  
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

“How many anvils have you had,” said I,  
“To wear and batter on these hammers so?”  
“Just one,” said he, and then with twinkling eyes,  
“The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.”

“And so,” I thought, “the anvil of God’s Word  
For ages skeptics’ blows have beat upon;  
Yet though the noise of falling blows was heard,  
The anvil is unmarred, the hammers gone.”

—John Clifford 

## Remember in Prayer

Please pray for our brethren that are unable to meet with us: Lois Adams, Ruth Black, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeples.

Also, please continue to pray for Kenny Paul Mitchell, who is

recovering from a stroke; and Herbert Sides, who has bone cancer.

Pray for both our leaders and enemies; and for one another, that we would stand firmly and boldly for Christ (1 Tim 2:1-4; Mt 5:44,45; Lk 6:27,28; Eph 6:18-20).