

BIBLICAL ANSWERS

FOR A BROKEN WORLD

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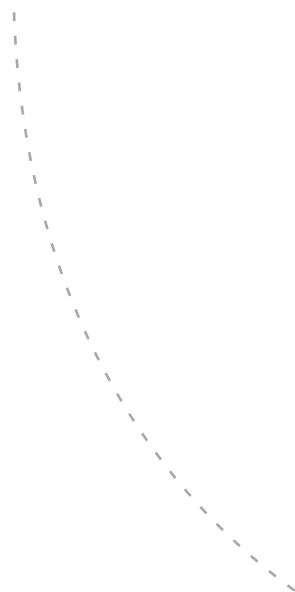
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This is a critical time in history. If Christians are uninformed about the important issues of our day—or if we stay silent—we may lose our country, our communities, and even our families. We pray this resource will help you take a stand to live out God’s truth at home and in public.

—Franklin Graham
President
Billy Graham Evangelistic Association



ABORTION

The Bible places the highest value on human life. It is sacred and of inestimable worth to God, who created it *“in His own image”* (Genesis 1:26–27); who sustains it (Job 12:10); and who redeemed it (2 Corinthians 5:19). The Bible recognizes the unborn as being fully human: *“You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your book!”* (Psalm 139:16, TLB).

As a Christian, there are several aspects of the abortion issue that you may be called upon to deal with: the woman who is considering having an abortion; the guilt of one who has already gone through that experience; parents of a pregnant girl; the unmarried father; medical personnel who have helped with or performed abortions.

In every case, always avoid being judgmental about their situation. Ask God to bring good from their experience. He can do this as they commit themselves and their problem completely to Him. *“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good”* (Romans 8:28, ESV).

What does God’s Word say? - - - - -

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you.”
(Jeremiah 1:5)

“Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb?”
(Job 31:15)

“Children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.”
(Psalm 127:3)

“You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body, and knit them together in my mother’s womb. ... You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion! You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your book!”
(Psalm 139:13–16, TLB)

HOMOSEXUALITY

The serious student of the Bible cannot dismiss homosexual behavior simply as an alternate lifestyle. God loves the homosexual as much as He does anyone else, but such behavior is a departure from the natural order of His creation. Though most homosexuals feel that they have not chosen their sexual orientation, the fact remains that many have responded improperly to this orientation; it is this response which must be dealt with in the light of Scripture.

God's Word shows us the dual purpose of the sexual relationship: It seals the marriage bond between a man and a woman, and it perpetuates the human race. (See Genesis 2:24 and Genesis 9:7.) A person's sexuality should only be expressed within this context. God created man and woman as unique biological persons made to complete each other. He instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of society.

Congregations should warmly welcome homosexuals as they attend our churches. But we cannot condone the homosexual lifestyle nor encourage the involvement of unrepentant sinners as members or leaders of the church. On the other hand, the church should not try to pretend that the problem does not exist. It should address the problem honestly and realistically, in love and understanding.

It is a source of encouragement that many homosexuals report being transformed through the power of the Gospel, even though some of them may never be completely free from homosexual tendencies or temptation. Paul, in writing to people who had been involved in homosexual behavior and many other types of sin, says, "*There was a time when some of you were just like that but now your sins are washed away, and you are set apart for God; and he has accepted you because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God have done for you*" (1 Corinthians 6:11, TLB).

What does God's Word say? - - - - -

"They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped ... the creature rather than the Creator For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the 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 themselves the due penalty for their error."

(Romans 1:25-27, ESV)

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."

(1 Corinthians 6:9-10, ESV)

"When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!"

(2 Corinthians 5:17, TLB)

"For since he himself has now been through suffering and temptation, he knows what it is like when we suffer and are tempted, and he is wonderfully able to help us."

(Hebrews 2:18, TLB)

SEXUAL IMMORALITY

We have become overwhelmed by the so-called sexual revolution and its devastating legacy to the nation: millions of illegitimate births, shattered personalities, divorce, abortions, and rampant sexual diseases—some of which are incurable.

God expressly forbids irresponsible sexual behavior, in order to spare us the disastrous consequences: *“The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body”* (1 Corinthians 6:13, 18, ESV).

God condemns immorality, but He offers deliverance. As with any other sin, God has dealt with immorality through the cross.

What does God’s Word say? - - - - -

“Sexual sin is never right: our bodies were not made for that but for the Lord, and the Lord wants to fill our bodies with himself.”

(1 Corinthians 6:13, TLB)

“This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.”

(1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, ESV)

“You were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body.”

(1 Corinthians 6:20)

“I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, ... since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality.”

(1 Corinthians 5:9-11, ESV)

DRUG ABUSE

America's drug epidemic no longer fits the classic stereotype of young people shooting up in back alleys. It's everywhere, from big cities to small towns to rural areas. And it can be anyone: Middle-aged women are dying in record numbers.

Leading this path of destruction is opioid addiction. Opioids include commonly prescribed pain relievers such as oxycodone (OxyContin) and hydrocodone, as well as heroin and the even more potent fentanyl. People have used drugs like them to replace pain with euphoria for millennia.

Drug dependency is a problem of the whole person—spiritual, physical, emotional, and social. Once addicted, the dependent lives in an illusory world characterized by paralyzed feelings and emotional responses, mental denials and delusions, social isolation, and spiritual limbo. For many it is a helpless state, a life of no return.

The effort to withdraw from a drug addiction can be very painful, both physically and psychologically. Unmonitored withdrawal can be dangerous. Getting free from dependency, and the subsequent rehabilitation, is usually a long-term process. A strong support system involving the spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical is needed.

When a drug dependent person makes a commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, this initial step of faith should lead to a new perspective and motivation for them, which will lead, hopefully, to rehabilitation and a life of wholeness. Even after commitment to Christ, however, there is often a need to work on the personal issues that led to the addiction.

What does God's Word say? - - - - -

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

"So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness." (Romans 6:11-13, ESV)

"Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death." (James 1:14-15)

"For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry." (1 Peter 4:3, ESV)

TRANSGENDERISM (GENDER IDENTITY DISORDER)

In 2013, the American Psychiatric Association dropped transgenderism from its diagnostic list of mental disorders, similar to its decision to drop homosexuality from the list in 1973. As a result, offering treatment for gender identity disorder is now stigmatized as politically incorrect. If our culture can break down gender, it can destroy the family. It's a spiritual attack on God's created order—that we are created male and female.

But no person can actually change gender. That's why some 41 percent of the transgender population attempts suicide—a figure cited by multiple sources, including Dr. Paul McHugh, former chief of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Medical Center, which pioneered so-called sex reassignment procedures. McHugh now strongly opposes such treatments as psychologically harmful.

Many who identify as transgender have always been heterosexual and have never had homosexual inclinations. That may counter the assumptions of most people. Yet the confused feeling that one's gender identity and biological sex don't match is rarely about arousal. Some describe it as attempting to escape into another reality. According to the founder of the ministry website, SexChangeRegret.com, those who come for help are overwhelmingly men and 98 percent heterosexual.

This kind of cultural confusion is an unfortunate outgrowth of a sinful and broken world. In response, Christians should speak the truth with compassion and love and—most importantly—openly live out our faith for those who are watching us. This way people can see God's grace and faithfulness in our decisions and experiences—and many who need Jesus Christ will be drawn to Him.

What does God's Word say? - - - - -

"God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth.'"

(Genesis 1:27-28)

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

(Genesis 2:24)

"A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God."

(Deuteronomy 22:5)

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how his ways will really satisfy you."

(Romans 12:2, TLB)



