

An Interview with  
**Rev. Dr. Mathew P John**

### **Is Homosexuality a Sin?**

To address this question, it is helpful to distinguish between three aspects of what we normally call "homosexuality": (1) same-sex attraction/orientation, (2) same-sex act/intercourse, and (3) same-sex marriage/lifestyle.

- **Same-sex Orientation:** According to the "theology of the fall," the entire creation has fallen out of its intended design due to the "original sin" described in Genesis 3. As a result of the fall, we are all born with predispositions that can be at odds with God's plan and purpose. Therefore, nothing in my theological understanding prevents me from accepting that individuals may struggle with same-sex attraction through no fault of their own.
- **Same-sex Intercourse:** Some might ask, "If I am genetically predisposed to a homosexual orientation, why can't I act on it?" The answer lies in understanding that no predisposition automatically grants moral permission to act upon it. Just as individuals born with violent or antisocial tendencies are still held accountable for their actions, so must individuals with same-sex orientation consider the implications of their choices. Christian teaching holds that sexual act is intended for the union of male and female, and is part of God's design for reproducing His image on earth. Any use of sexuality outside of its original design is therefore deemed unacceptable.
- **Same-sex Marriage:** If God established the institution of family based on the sexual union of a male and female, we do not have the authority to redefine or promote an alternate lifestyle founded on a different sexual ethic. For this reason, same-sex marriage is seen as an open rebellion against God's created order.

### **What Does the Bible Say About Homosexuality?**

Four key verses—two from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament—explicitly condemn same-sex union. Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 describe same-sex intercourse as an abomination, punishable by death. In the New Testament, Paul includes same-sex acts among behaviors that prevent individuals from inheriting the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:10) and describes them as "unnatural" (Romans 1:24-27).

While I am aware that some Bible scholars employ methodologies of contextual criticism to reinterpret the meaning of these passages, I believe the underlying principles are still applicable to our current context.

### **If Homosexuality is a serious issue, why didn't Jesus say anything about it?**

In first-century Jewish culture, same-sex intercourse was already considered an anomaly and clearly condemned as a sin under the Mosaic Law. This belief was widely accepted across cultures, and there was strong consensus on the matter among Jesus' audience. He did not have to reiterate what was already universally understood and upheld within the community.

It is also important to note that Jesus didn't specifically address other sexual sins, such as incest or bestiality. His silence on these issues does not imply acceptance or approval. Moreover, Jesus affirmed that God created humans male and female and intended marriage to be a union between one man and one woman (Matthew 19:4-6). This affirmation of the

created order reflects Jesus' implicit endorsement of traditional sexual ethics, reinforcing the understanding that deviations from this model, such as same-sex intercourse, are outside of God's design.

### **How Should We Respond to Transgender People?**

God created only two sexes—male and female—but the fall (Genesis 3) has corrupted human physiology, leading to the existence of **intersex** individuals, who may have a combination of male and female biological traits, including variations in chromosomes, gonads, hormone levels, or reproductive organs.

The existence of intersex individuals does not negate God's divine design but rather serves as an example of the "groaning of creation" in a fallen world (Romans 8:22). The closest Biblical reference to an intersex individual is the term "eunuch." Jesus acknowledged that some eunuchs are born that way (Matthew 19:1-12, Mark 10:1-12, Luke 16:18) and are no less valuable than biological males or females.

God's love for the intersex individuals is clearly expressed in Isaiah 56:4-5:

*"To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths,  
And choose what pleases Me,  
And hold fast My covenant,  
To them I will give, in My house and within My walls, a memorial  
And a name better than that of sons and daughters;  
I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off."*

However, the term **transgender** is used in our culture to describe people whose gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. A transgender individual, unlike an intersex individual, is biologically male or female but chooses to identify as another gender—or neither (non-binary)—based on their internal sense of identity. The concept of "transgenderism" suggests that the distinction between male and female is socially constructed rather than biologically defined.

I strongly believe that sexual identity should be grounded in biological sex, rather than subjective feelings or perceptions that can fluctuate over time. Our bodies, as created by God, provide a clear and objective basis for understanding human sexuality, and this biological reality offers a stable framework to anchor our sexual identity.

I am particularly concerned about the growing trend (especially among minors) to undergo medical interventions, such as hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and sex reassignment surgery (SRS), both of which have irreversible effects. We should rather focus on providing compassionate care, emotional support, and guidance that affirms their value and identity without rushing into drastic medical interventions.