

Same-Gender Attraction Outline – Mike Baird

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Doctrines & Principles

God created us Male & Female

- The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles
"All human beings—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. *Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.*" (The Family: A Proclamation to the World)

Observations

- We had the same gender we have today in the pre-existence and we will have the same gender forever
- God does not make mistakes and "put" anyone in the wrong gender body

Sacred Powers only between man and woman

- The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles
"God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be

employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife." (The Family: A Proclamation to the World)

Observations

- Spencer W Kimball
"All such deviations from normal, proper heterosexual relationships are not merely unnatural but wrong in the sight of God" (The Miracle of Forgiveness, 79)

Sacred Powers only within bonds of Marriage

- The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles
"God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, *lawfully wedded as husband and wife.*" (The Family: A Proclamation to the World)
- Joseph F Smith
"Sexual union is lawful in wedlock, and if participated in with right intent is honorable and sanctifying. But without the bonds of marriage, sexual indulgence is a debasing sin, abominable in the sight of Deity." (Gospel Doctrine, 309)
- David Bednar
"Complete sexual abstinence before marriage and total fidelity within marriage protect the sanctity of this sacred channel " ("Marriage Is Essential to His Eternal Plan", World Wide Training Feb 2006, (Ensign June 2006))

Marriage between man and women only

- The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles
"Marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children." (The Family: A Proclamation to the World)
- 1 Cor 11:11
neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord

Children to be reared by a Father and a Mother

- The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles
"Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be *reared by a father and a mother* who honor marital vows with complete fidelity" (The Family: A Proclamation to the World)

Satan desires us to be miserable as himself

- 2 Nephi 2:27

Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; *for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself.*

- Dallin H Oaks

"He seeks to undermine the principle of individual accountability, to persuade us to misuse our sacred powers of procreation, to discourage marriage and childbearing by worthy men and women, and to confuse what it means to be male or female." ("Same-Gender Attraction," Ensign, Oct. 1995, 7)

Difference between thoughts, feelings and participation in immoral behavior

- Dallin H Oaks

"The First Presidency has declared that "there is a distinction between [1] immoral thoughts and feelings and [2] participating in either immoral heterosexual or any homosexual behavior (Letter of the First Presidency, 14 Nov. 1991)." Although immoral thoughts are less serious than immoral behavior, such thoughts also need to be resisted and repented of because we know that "our thoughts will also condemn us" (Alma 12:14). Immoral thoughts (and the less serious feelings that lead to them) can bring about behavior that is sinful." ("Same-Gender Attraction," Ensign, Oct. 1995, 7)

Adjectives not conditions

- Dallin H Oaks

"We should note that the words homosexual, lesbian, and gay are *adjectives* to describe particular thoughts, feelings, or behaviors. We should refrain from using these words as nouns to identify particular conditions or specific persons. Our religious doctrine dictates this usage. It is wrong to use these words to denote a *condition*, because this implies that a person is consigned by birth to a circumstance in which he or she has no choice in respect to the critically important matter of sexual *behavior*." ("Same-Gender Attraction," Ensign, Oct. 1995, 7)

Definitions & Differences

- Homosexual *thoughts & feelings*
 - Redirect and resist
- Homosexual *behavior*
 - Serious sin
- Dallin H Oaks

"Applying the First Presidency's distinction to the question of same-sex relationships, we should distinguish between (1) homosexual (or lesbian) "thoughts and feelings" (which should be resisted and redirected), and (2) "homosexual behavior" (which is a serious sin)." ("Same-Gender Attraction," Ensign, Oct. 1995, 7)

Temptations

- Having temptations in of itself is not a sin – we are all tempted
 - Independent of our agency
- It is what we do with the temptations is important
 - Depends on our use of agency
- See [Atonement – Succor when tempted](#) by Mike Baird

Feelings

- Some feelings seem to be inborn
- Some feelings are traceable to mortal experiences
- Some feelings seem to be acquired from a complex interaction of "nature and nurture"
- Feelings should be resisted and redirected
- Dallin H Oaks

"All of us have some feelings we did not choose, but the gospel of Jesus Christ teaches us that we still have the power to resist and reform our feelings (as needed) and to assure that they do not lead us to entertain inappropriate thoughts or to engage in sinful behavior." ("Same-Gender Attraction," Ensign, Oct. 1995, 7)

Immoral thoughts

- Dallin H Oaks

"Although immoral thoughts are less serious than immoral behavior, such thoughts also need to be resisted and repented of because we know that "our thoughts will also condemn us" (Alma 12:14). Immoral thoughts (and the less serious feelings that lead to them) can bring about behavior that is sinful." ("Same-Gender Attraction," Ensign, Oct. 1995, 7)

Immoral behavior

- Serious sin

Susceptibilities

- We all have different susceptibilities
 - Dallin H Oaks
" Different persons have different physical characteristics and different susceptibilities to the various physical and emotional pressures we may encounter in our childhood and adult environments. We did not choose these personal susceptibilities either, but we do choose and will be accountable for the attitudes, priorities, behavior, and "lifestyle" we engraft upon them." ("Same-Gender Attraction," Ensign, Oct. 1995, 7)
- Some of may be unusually susceptible to certain things
 - Dallin H Oaks
"some people seem to be unusually susceptible to particular actions, reactions, or addictions. Perhaps such susceptibilities are inborn or acquired without personal choice or fault " ("Same-Gender Attraction," Ensign, Oct. 1995, 7)
- Regardless we are accountable because of our agency
 - Dallin H Oaks
"Whatever our susceptibilities or tendencies [feelings], they cannot subject us to eternal consequences unless we exercise our free agency to do or think the things forbidden by the commandments of God." ("Same-Gender Attraction," Ensign, Oct. 1995, 7)

References

- The Family: A Proclamation to the World, The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Dallin H. Oaks, "Same-Gender Attraction," Ensign, Oct. 1995, 7
- "Compassion for Those Who Struggle," Ensign, Sept. 2004, 58
- "My Battle with Same-Sex Attraction," Ensign, Aug. 2002, 49
- Elder David A. Bednar, "Marriage Is Essential to His Eternal Plan", World Wide Training Feb 2006, (Ensign June 2006)