

Ethical Views of Homosexuality

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Columns from L. R. Holben's *What Christians Think about Homosexuality: 6 Representative Views* -- Represented by Dennis Hollinger in *The Meaning of Sex*.

This chart is designed to help people express how they feel about homosexuality after some listening and together. Though it is NOT perfect it can be helpful to help us express what we believe to ourselves and to others if we choose to share our thoughts. In each row, select the one statement that most closely matches what you think. The row marked, "Leadership and Polity" will help us as we discern Ohio Conference's role with Mountain States Conference. The row marked, "Clarifications" is basically a summary for expressing your feelings about the role of homosexuality in the church. The other rows lead up to what we will express in these two rows.

The Ethical Stance	Only one view of homosexuality from Scripture: condemnation.	Homosexuality is sin, however healing can occur through prayer, fellowship, and therapy.	Homosexual orientation is distinguished from homosexual practice. Homosexual behaviors are sin. The same gender orientation is not sin.	Homosexual acts are deplorable, but a homosexual monogamous relationship is better alternative than sexual chaos for an individual.	Affirms homosexuality as positively good.	Full embrace of inclusion in society for all - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer persons
Biblical View	Scripture is the only source for understandings about homosexuality	Share the conviction of homosexuality as sin based on Scripture	The ethic of homosexual acts is sin and not a scientific question.	Homosexual acts not intrinsically evil as essentially imperfect.	The absence of biblical material against homosexuality should be a sign. It is not mentioned in the 10 Commandments, nor summarized in the law, no prophet highlights it, and Jesus makes no mention of it.	No one is outside the universal embrace of the Creator's love. This view builds on the principle of justice. The biblical struggle is against oppression and domination -- including homophobia.
Socio-psychological role	Any psychological or sociological perspectives are rejected as promoting non-Christian world views	Healing occurs through prayer, counseling, and discipleship	Accepts current state of the sciences on the nature of homosexuality. Orientation is a scientific matter; however, homosexual behavior is not a scientific question - it is a choice.	Humanity makes moral decisions and act within a context of ambiguity. Sometimes judgments involve the lesser of two evils.	Same gender relationships can experience self-transcending love similar to heterosexual relationships	Heterosexual majority should not dictate how homosexuals should behave.
Leadership and Polity Questions	We trust leaders to take action to enforce rules.	Discipline around issues of deviancy from the Confession of Faith is needed to bring congregations and individuals back to fellowship.	Conferences, denominations, and individuals must recognize sin in order to be motivated to change.	We make room for deviation from the Confession of Faith while continuing to hold to it as our standard of faith and practice.	We focus our life energy on extending welcome to all people.	We fully trust one another at each level of "church" to listen together to listen to the Word and the Spirit and respond as God leads.
Clarifications	No distinction between homosexual orientation and homosexual acts.	Focus is more pastoral in tone, but remains a confident proclamation of hope through recovery ministries	Faithful discipleship most likely means a commitment to lifelong celibacy	A homosexual monogamous relationship can be morally tolerated.	Advocate for full acceptance in society and the church including ordination for ministry.	Move beyond biblical injunctions against homosexuality to the broader themes of justice and liberation