

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

	<i>Condemnation</i>	<i>Promise of Healing</i>	<i>Costly Discipleship</i>	<i>Pastoral Accommodation</i>	<i>Affirmation</i>	<i>Liberation</i>
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

Groups or individuals that hold this position	Traditional Roman Catholic church position, fundamentalists, and Protestant Religious Right	Dobson's Focus on the Family	Contemporary Roman Catholic Church; conservative Anglicanism, official statements of several mainline Protestant denominations, and evangelical groups and individuals	Charles Curran (RC theologian); Helmut Theilicke (German theologian); Lewis Smedes (Evangelical ethicist)	United Church of Christ, gay caucuses, and various academicians; Peter Gomes (Harvard University - Chaplain)	Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
by Clyde G. Kratz	(with Leadership & Polity Questions added by Ohio Conference Conference Minister & Regional Pastors)					