

Jesus  
and the  
LGBTQ Community:  
Part 1

Mako A. Nagasawa

# Topics Related to Sexuality

- **Politics**
- Science
- Scripture
- Personal
- Interpersonal
- Organizational

# Politics

- Legality of Gay Marriage?

# Politics

- Legality of Gay Marriage?
- Civil Unions for All, Gay or Straight

# A Christian Approach to Political Power: Two Factors

1. Punish and Deter Other-Harm
2. Tolerance for Other Religions

# Factor 1: Prevent Harm

- Other-harm (Romans 13:1 – 7; Genesis 9:5 – 6)
- Self-harm?

# Factor 1: Prevent Harm (Other)

- <sup>5</sup> Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. <sup>6</sup> Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.
  - Genesis 9:5 – 6

# Factor 1: Prevent Harm (Other)

- <sup>12:17</sup> Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. <sup>19</sup> Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> 'But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.' <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



# Factor 1: Prevent Harm (Other)

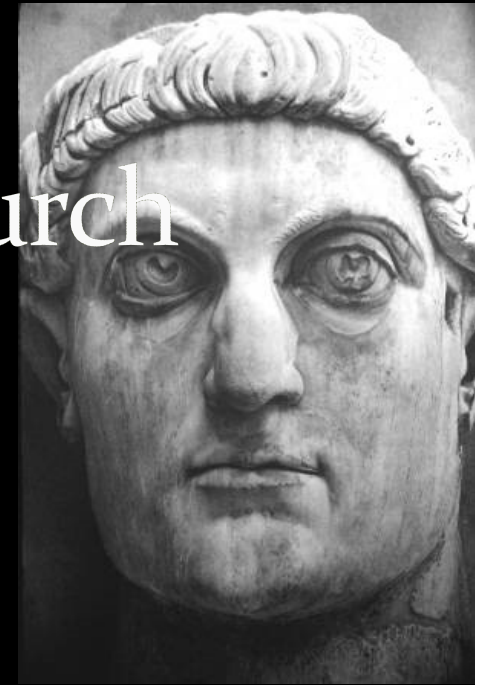
- <sup>13:1</sup> Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; <sup>4</sup> for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.
  - Romans 12:17 – 13:4

# Factor 1: Prevent Harm (Self?)

- <sup>6:18</sup> Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the [sexually] immoral man sins against his own body.
  - 1 Corinthians 6:18

# The Example of the Early Church

- Used Political Power to Stop Other-Harm
  - Forced enslavement (kidnappers): 315 AD
  - Breaking up enslaved families: 318 AD
  - Infanticide: 318 AD
  - Childraising assistance for impoverished parents: 322 AD, 329 AD
  - Gladiator games: 399 AD, 404 AD, 438 AD
  - A wife's protection from her husband: to divorce, have child custody, and keep property (Justinian/Theodora 527 – 565 AD)
  - Soliciting prostitutes (male customers)



# The Example of the Early Church

- Did Not Use Political Power to Stop Self-Harm
  - Suicide
  - Prostitution (Females)
  - Consensual Sex Outside Marriage



## Factor 2: Tolerance for Other Religions

- 9:1 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, <sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart... <sup>3</sup> for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> who are **Israelites**...
  - Romans 9 – 11

## Factor 2: Tolerance for Other Religions

- Romans 9 – 11: Explanation for *ongoing*, loving Christian mission to Jews
  - Political respect for Judaism →
  - Political respect/tolerance for other faiths, too →
  - Christian political pluralism, not theocracy →
  - Might have saved Europe all the ‘wars of religion’!!

# Factor 2: Tolerance for Other Religions

- John Winthrop
- Boston
- Theocracy

vs.  
vs.  
vs.

Roger Williams  
Providence  
Pluralism



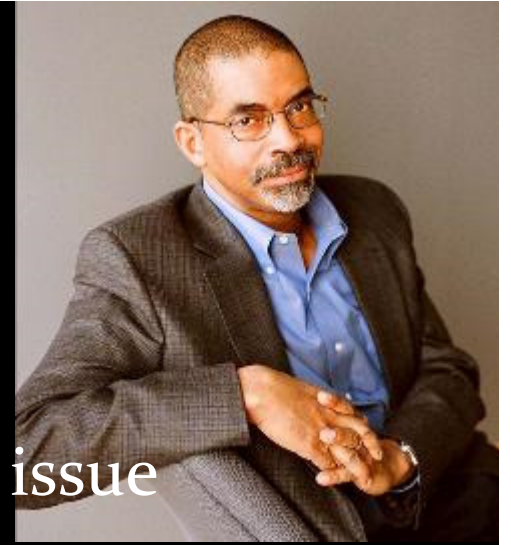
# 'Marriage' in Public Policy





# 'Marriage' in Public Policy

- Civil Unions for All, Gay or Straight
- 'Marriage' is a Religious First Amendment issue
  - Stephen L. Carter, Yale Law professor
  - Ronald Dworkin, NYU Law professor
  - R. Emmett Tyrrell, American Spectator
  - Noah Millman, The American Conservative
  - Rabbi Schmuley Boteach, Orthodox Judaism



# A Christian Approach to Political Power: Two Factors

1. Punish and Deter Other-Harm
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# Topics Related to Sexuality

- Politics
- **Science**
- Scripture
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# What Do I Think Science Says About Same Sex Attraction?

1. Biology and Genetics
2. Anatomy and Physiology
3. Epigenetics and Environment


# Biology and Genetics

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**Genetics**  
Notes & Theories

'Gay genes': science is on the right track,  
we're born this way. Let's deal with it.

Qazi Rahman

A recent article argued that sexuality is down to choice, not genetics. But the scientific evidence says otherwise, and points to a strong biological origin

Friday 24 July 2015 07.17 EDT

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# Biology and Genetics

Qazi Rahman, *The Guardian*, July 24, 2015

- “Three gene finding studies showed that gay brothers share **genetic markers on the X chromosome**; the most recent study also found shared markers on chromosome 8.”
- “Genes are far from the whole story. **Sex hormones in prenatal life** play a role.”
- “The **brains** of gay and heterosexual people also appear to be organised differently.”

# Biology and Genetics

- “Some will argue that our common sense experiences are full of people who are “fluid” in their sexual orientations or change their sexualities. This won’t do either because our experience fools us all the time. Change is widely used to argue against biological explanations.”
- “People worry that scientific research will lead to “cures” for homosexuality”

# Biology and Genetics

**New  
Scientist**

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INTERVIEW 22 July 2015

## Sexuality is fluid – it's time to get past 'born this way'

Gay rights shouldn't depend on how a person came to be gay, and we should embrace the fact that sexuality can change, says developmental psychologist **Lisa Diamond**





# Biology and Genetics

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ESSAYS

## Not born this way

Other liberation movements have rejected the idea that biology is destiny. So why should gay rights depend on it?

*by* Shamus Khan



# Biology and Genetics

- My conclusion: Biology and Genetics do appear to confirm that SSA begins from the womb, and has a biological basis.
- But what do Anatomy/Physiology and Epigenetics/Environment tell us?

# Anatomy and Physiology

- The anus – unlike the vagina
  - Sphincter muscle is a one way valve
    - “Repetitive anal sex may lead to weakening of the anal sphincter, making it difficult to hold in feces until you can get to the toilet.”
      - Anal Sex Safety and Health Concerns, WebMD
    - “25% of homosexuals that practiced anoreceptive intercourse and 50% of AIDS-afflicted homosexuals had anal incontinence compared to a 3% rate among heterosexual men.”
      - Goldstone SE [an out-of-the-closet gay physician], *The Ins and Outs of Gay Sex: A Medical Handbook for Men* (Dell Publishing, New York, NY, 1999) and Miles AJ, Allen-Mersh TG, Wastell C, “Effect of anoreceptive intercourse on anorectal function,” *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 1993; 86(3): 144-7

# Anatomy and Physiology

- The anus – unlike the vagina
  - Sphincter muscle is a one way valve
  - No lubrication
  - Rectal tissue is very thin and tears easily
  - Torn tissues do not heal easily
  - Risk of bacterial or viral infection is high
  - Tears could become anal fissures
  - Risks of infection through the colon and large intestine

# Anatomy and Physiology

- Risks of bacterial or viral infection
  - Gay men practicing anal sex also regularly struggle with over a dozen bacterial and viral illnesses related to infections by microorganisms not found anywhere else on the body.
    - amoebiasis; chlamydia; cryptosporidiosis; E. coli infections; giardiasis; gonorrhea; hepatitis A; hepatitis B; hepatitis C; herpes simplex; HPV; Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpes virus (HHV-8); lymphogranuloma venereum; Mycoplasma hominis; Mycoplasma genitalium; pubic lice; salmonellosis; shigella; syphilis; tuberculosis; and Ureaplasma urealyticum

# Anatomy and Physiology

- Risks of bacterial or viral infection
  - “Oral and anal intercourse present physicians with surgical as well as medical problems, ranging from anal fissures and impaction of foreign bodies in the rectum to major diagnostic dilemmas.”
    - Dr. Selma Dritz, “Medical Aspects of Homosexuality,” *New England Journal of Medicine*, July 3, 1980

# Anatomy and Physiology

- Anal tears can become anal fissures
  - “An anal fissure is a small tear in the skin and tissue of the anus. It can bleed, itch, and become extremely sore, making bowel movement, sitting, and sex painful. Anal sex without lubrication, a hard bowel movement, and inflammation of anal tissue can cause a fissure. Some heal within a couple of weeks, especially if therapeutic cream, warm baths, and stool softeners are used. Others require surgical removal of the tear, which is exacerbated by sphincter movement, and the underlying scar tissue. People with fissures are advised to avoid anal sex.”
    - “Anal Health,” HealthCommunities, <http://healthcommunities.com/analhealth/index.shtml> (accessed 1/1/16); J. E. Barone, et al., “Management of Foreign Bodies and Trauma of the Rectum,” *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, 156(4): 453-457 (April 1983).

# Anatomy and Physiology

- Risk of infection through the colon and large intestine
  - Ejaculate has components that are immunosuppressive, designed to allow the sperm to evade the immune defenses of the female
  - The colon is the last stage of the digestive system; it absorbs nutrients from fecal matter, but easily absorbs viruses into the bloodstream
  - Enteric infections occur from protozoa and bacteria
    - E.g. Amoebiasis in NY in 1970's: William DC, Felman YM, Marr JS, Shookhoff HB. "Sexually Transmitted Enteric Pathogens in Male Homosexual Population." *New York State Journal of Medicine*, 1977; November (2050-2051)



# Anatomy and Physiology

- Anal cancer
  - “Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men are 17 times more likely to get anal cancer than heterosexual men.”
    - HPV
    - Lubricants?
    - Sperm and seminal plasma?
      - Richard J. Ablin and Rachel Stein-Werblowsky, ‘Sexual behaviour and increased anal cancer, *Immunology and Cell Biology*, 1997
  - Other reasons?

CDC Home  
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A-Z Index A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z #

## Gay and Bisexual Men's Health

Gay and Bisexual Men's Health

For Your Health  
CDC Programs At-A-Glance  
Stigma and Discrimination  
HIV/AIDS  
Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) have been rising among gay and bisexual men, with increases in syphilis being seen across the

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## Anal Sex: A Dangerous Trend

# Anatomy and Physiology

- Fecal bacteria can cause a urinary tract infection in men who do not wear condoms, or in women when the male partner switches from anal to vaginal penetration
  - E. coli bacteria normally live in the colon
  - ‘Escherichia coli, or E. coli, is responsible for more than 85 percent of all UTIs, according to a 2012 report in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases.’
    - Joseph Bennington-Castro, ‘Can E. Coli Cause a Urinary Tract Infection?’ [EveryDayHealth.com](http://EveryDayHealth.com) website

# Epigenetics and Environment

Qazi Rahman, *The Guardian*

- “Genes are far from the whole story. **Sex hormones in prenatal life** play a role.”

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**Genetics**  
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# Epigenetics and Environment

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## Plastic chemicals 'feminise boys'

Chemicals in plastics alter the brains of baby boys, making them "more feminine", say US researchers.

Males exposed to high doses in the womb went on to be less likely to play with boys' toys like cars or to join in rough and tumble games, they found



# Epigenetics and Environment

- If chemicals like xenoestrogen in plastic have this impact on women, what is the impact on men?
  - Higher rates of breast, uterine, ovarian cancers, diabetes, heart disease
    - “Women who took high-dose estrogen birth control pills were 50 percent more likely to develop breast cancer” (Paula Mejia, *Newsweek*, Aug.1, 2014 citing an article in *Cancer Research*)
  - Heavier menstrual cramping
  - Larger breast size
  - Hormone disruption
  - Allergies
  - Accelerated aging
  - Depression, fatigue, etc.

# Epigenetics and Environment

- Xenoestrogen impact on male animals:
  - Mutation, dysfunction
  - Decrease in sperm count
  - Inability to reproduce (chemical castration)
  - Development of ovaries and eggs
  - Homosexual behavior
    - E.g. Juan Gonzales and Amy Goodman, “Silencing the Scientist: Tyrone Hayes on Being Targeted by Herbicide Firm Syngenta,” *Democracy Now*, Feb 21, 2014

# Epigenetics and Environment



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## **E**nvironmental chemicals and disorders of sex differentiation in male newborn

[C Jeandrel](#) , [F Paris](#) , [B Terouane](#) et [C. Sultan](#)

### Abstract

Over the past twenty years, the documented increase in the disorders of male sexual differentiation, such as hypospadias, cryptorchidism, and micropenis, has led to the suspicion that environmental chemicals are detrimental to normal male genital development in utero. Male sexual differentiation is critically dependent on the normal action of androgens, and unbalanced androgen/estrogen ratios can disturb it. Environmental xenoestrogens (such as herbicides, pesticides, PCBs, plasticizers, and polystyrenes) that mimic estrogens or environmental antiandrogens (such as polyaromatic hydrocarbons, linuron, vinclozolin and pp'DDE) that disturb endocrine balance, cause demasculinizing effects in the male fetus. These environmental chemicals are often referred to as endocrine disruptors: they are thought to mimic endogenous estrogens by entering the cell, binding to the receptor and activating transcription, they may also antagonize normal androgen action.

We have established numerous cell lines to assess the estrogenicity and antiandrogenicity of compounds found in the environment and to identify new products present in wastewater effluents that are able to disrupt endocrine functions. Several cell lines responding to estrogens have been obtained in our group, including cells with different enzymatic

# Epigenetics and Environment

- “Over the past twenty years, the documented increase in the disorders of male sexual differentiation, such as hypospadias, cryptorchidism, and micropenis, has led to the suspicion that environmental chemicals are detrimental to normal male genital development in utero. Male sexual differentiation is critically dependent on the normal action of androgens, and unbalanced androgen/estrogen ratios can disturb it. Environmental xenoestrogens (such as herbicides, pesticides, PCBs, plasticizers, and polystyrenes) that mimic estrogens or environmental antiandrogens ... cause demasculinizing effects in the male fetus..” (2002)



# Epigenetics and Environment

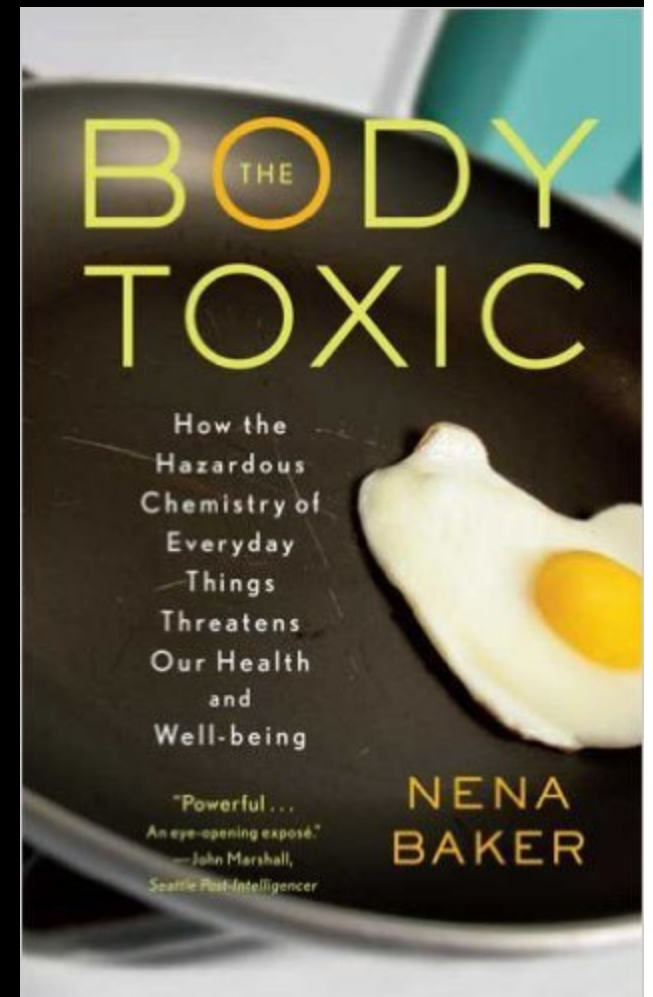
- Hypospadias: birth defect of the urethra where the urinary tract opening is not at the usual place, at the head of the penis
- Cryptorchidism: the absence of one or both testes in the scrotum
- Micropenis: the erect penis is 2.75 inches or less; whereas the average erect penis is 5 inches

# Epigenetics and Environment

- How do we absorb chemicals like xenoestrogens?
  - Oral contraceptives, synthetic hormones
  - Recycled water with hormones from urine from women who used estrogen-based birth control pills (recycling toilet water filters urine but not the hormones)
  - Non-organic livestock are fed estrogenic drugs to fatten them.
  - Grains sprayed with pesticides
  - Some soaps, cosmetics, lotions, shampoos
  - Solvents found in fingernail polish and polish remover, glue, cleaning supplies
  - Some food coloring

# Epigenetics and Environment

- How do we absorb chemicals like xenoestrogens?
  - Almost all plastics, especially when plastics become hot or are heated
  - Bisphenol A in plastic bottles, containers and almost all food-can liners
  - Recycled plastics with residues of herbicides, pesticides, poisons and chemical solvents



# Epigenetics and Environment

- “Plastic is believed to be the main contaminant in the huge garbage gyres that pollute the oceans... And an increasing amount of it consists of the tiny plastic orbs used as abrasives in products like toothpaste and anti-acne lotions. The particles are called microbeads... Once these virtually indestructible beads enter the water, they attract toxic substances, like PCBs. They become part of the aquatic food chain, soon eaten by fish and then, too often, by humans.”
  - Editorial Board, “Microbeads, the Tiny Orbs Threatening Our Water,” *New York Times*, Aug 21, 2015
  - Obama banned plastic microbeads Dec 31, 2015!!

# Epigenetics and Environment



# Epigenetics and Environment



# Epigenetics and Environment



# Epigenetics and Environment

Great Pacific Garbage Patch





# Epigenetics and Environment

- What if cleaning up our environment leads to lower numbers of people with SSA?
- “People worry that scientific research will lead to “cures” for homosexuality”
  - Drugs for sexual desire and orientation?
  - Gene therapy?

# What Do I Think Science Says About Same Sex Attraction?

1. Biology and Genetics
2. Anatomy and Physiology
3. Epigenetics and Environment

Science does not say that SSA is 'fine.' Science says that there are times when something goes wrong for people in the womb, or during childhood, so that their desires and genetics do not match their physical body.

# What Do I Think Science Says About Same Sex Attraction?

- “Our experience fools us all the time.”
  - Qazi Rahman, “Gay Genes’: Science is On the Right Track, We’re Born This Way. Deal With It.’ *The Guardian*, July 24, 2015, arguing why desire alone is not a good argument

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  - But why is having a genetic explanation for desire a good argument?

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  - But why is having a genetic explanation for desire a good argument?
- Whose human experience can be held up as normative? If Jesus was healing human nature in himself...

# Topics Related to Sexuality

- Politics
- Science
- **Scripture (light introduction)**
- Personal
- Interpersonal
- Organizational

# Scripture: God, Humanity, and the Physical World

- Jesus said that birth defects happen
  - ‘There are eunuchs who are born that way from their mother’s womb’ (Matthew 19:12)
- The creation is not what God meant it to be
  - ‘For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the children of God... The whole creation groans and suffers...’ (Romans 8:18 – 25)

# Scripture: God, Humanity, and the Physical World

- So what did God intend?
- How is God healing humanity and creation, in and through Jesus?
- How do we interpret each of our desires? Why do we always desire *more*?
- Find out more in part 2!