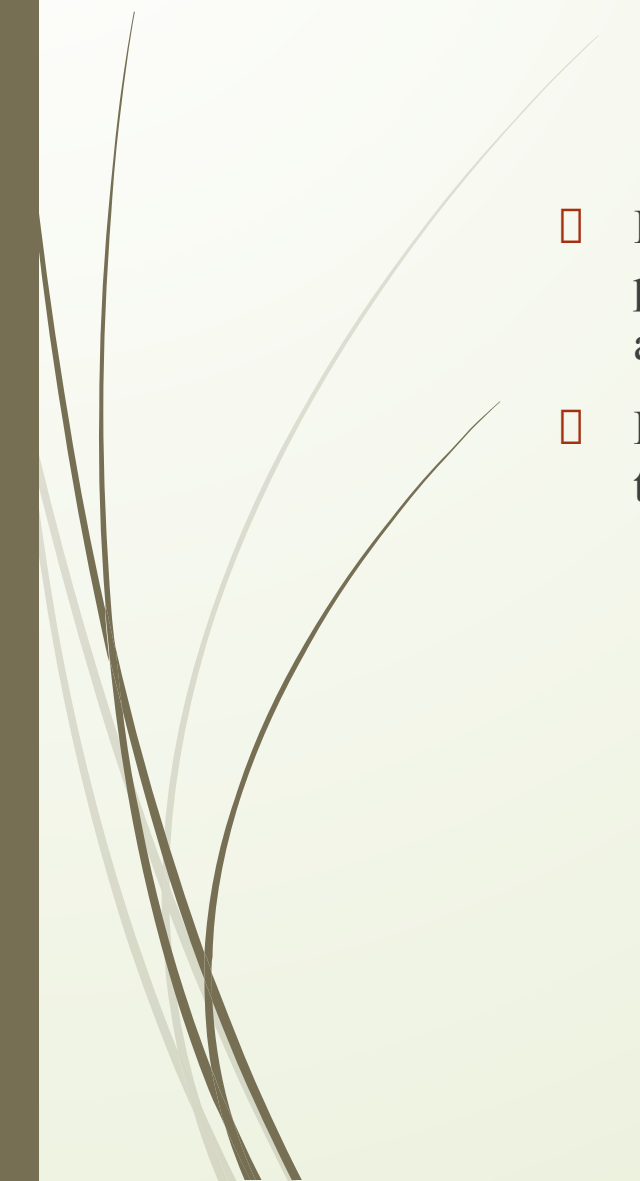




It's in the Genes

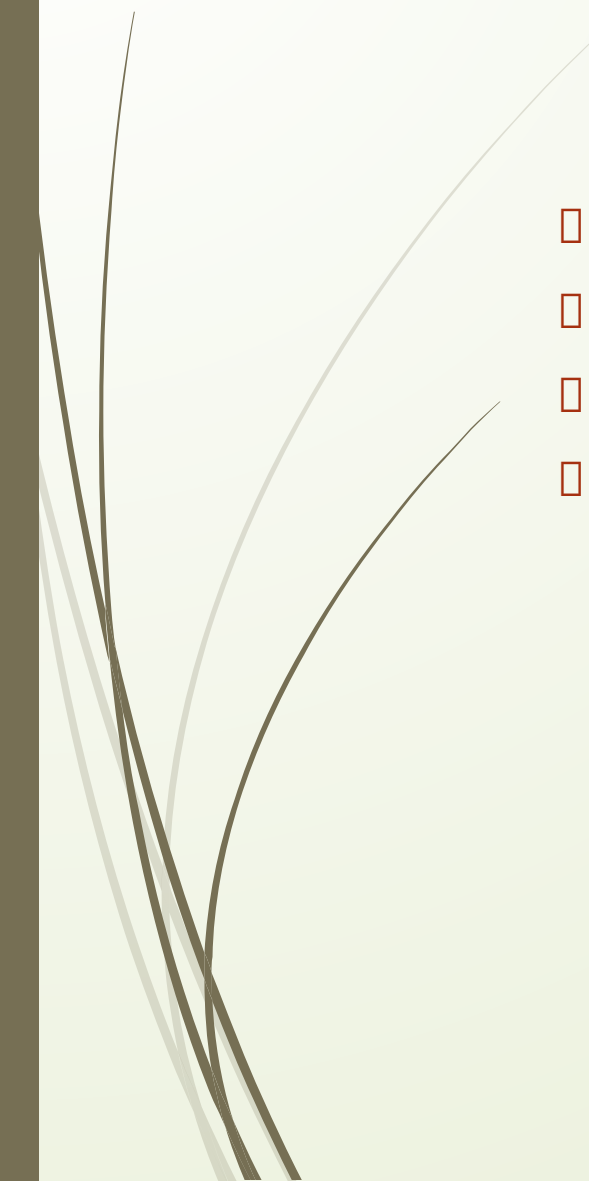


Definitions

- Ideology – A form of social or political philosophy in which practical elements are as prominent as theoretical ones. It is a system of ideas that aspires both to explain the world and to change it (Encyclopedia Britannica)
 - Humanism - An outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or supernatural matters.
- 



Characteristics of a Good Parable

- 
- Juxtaposition of two diametrically different but similar concepts or subjects
 - Provokes a reaction
 - Stimulates a conscious attention to lesson at hand
 - Invokes the slow brain as opposed to the fast brain



Compare & Contrast

Humanism

- Worldview
- Seeks to rationally solve human problems
- Prime importance on the human rather than the divine
- Belief in the inherent and potential value in human beings
- Touched by human needs
- Calls for human rights and equality

Ideology

- Worldview
- Seeks to explain the world and to change it
- Prime importance on the divine rather than human
- Does not see inherent and potential value in human beings
- Unfazed by human needs
- Ignores importance of human rights



The Parable of Homosexuality – A brief History

- At different times and in different cultures, homosexual behaviour has been variously approved of, tolerated, punished, and banned. Homosexuality was not uncommon in ancient Greece and Rome, and the relationships between adult and adolescent males in particular have become a chief focus of Western classicists in recent years. Judeo-Christian as well as Muslim cultures have generally perceived homosexual behaviour as sinful. Many Jewish and Christian leaders, however, have gone to great lengths to make clear that it is the acts and not the individuals or even their “inclination” or “orientation” that their faiths proscribe. Others—from factions within mainstream Protestantism to organizations of Reform rabbis—have advocated, on theological as well as social grounds, the full acceptance of homosexuals and their relationships. The topic has threatened to cause outright schisms in some denominations (Encyclopedia Britannica)



A brief History Cont'd

- Attitudes toward homosexuality are generally in flux, partially as a result of increased political activism (see [gay rights movement](#)) and efforts by homosexuals to be seen not as aberrant personalities but as differing from “normal” individuals only in their [sexual orientation](#). The conflicting views of homosexuality—as a variant but normal [human sexual behaviour](#) on one hand, and as psychologically [deviant](#) behaviour on the other—remain present in most societies in the 21st century, but they have been largely resolved (in the professional sense) in most developed countries. The [American Psychiatric Association](#), for example, declassified “ego-syntonic homosexuality” (the condition of a person content with his or her homosexuality) as a [mental illness](#) in 1973. Nonetheless, some religious groups continue to emphasize reparative therapy in the attempt to “cure” homosexuality through prayer, [counseling](#), and behaviour modification. Their claims of success, however, are controversial (Encyclopedia Britannica).



List of Countries

- Yemen
- Iran
- Mauritania
- Nigeria
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Afghanistan
- Somalia
- Sudan
- UAE

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/06/13/here-are-the-10-countries-where-homosexuality-may-be-punished-by-death-2/>



Research in Genetics



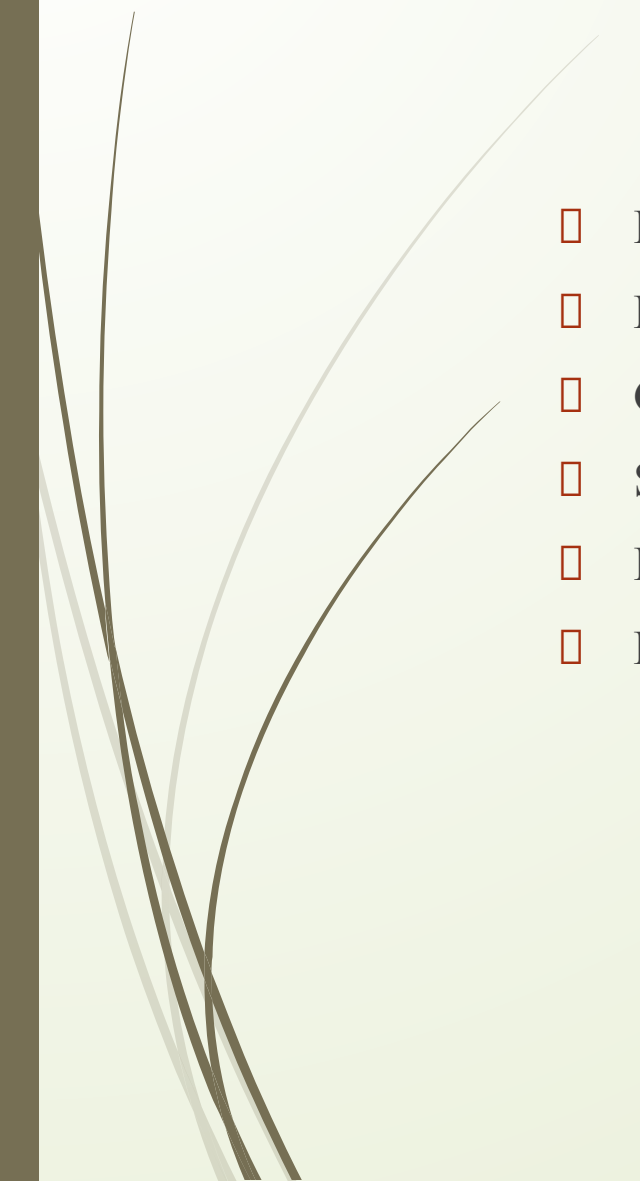
Dr. Dean Hamer (Former NIH contributor) – Popular American geneticist

"Rarely before have so many reacted so loudly to so little." Hamer's paper-- "A Linkage Between DNA Markers on the X Chromosome and Male Sexual Orientation"-- had the modest ring of science, where change is often slow and incremental. But the underlying idea seemed to carry enormous implications: Homosexuality was not a choice--"the wrong choice," as many religious and **political** leaders have demagogued on the issue. Instead, homosexuality was as much a biological fact as eye color

(<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/assault/genetics/>).



Research in Genetics Cont'd

- Evidence suggests that homosexuality is as biological as eye color
 - Result of a complex interaction of genes among each other and with the environment
 - Genetics can differentiate between inherited traits and environmentally influenced traits
 - Shared environments do not cause neither homosexuality or heterosexuality
 - Environments that alter gene interactions may affect sexual orientation
 - Potential breakthrough evidence in the near future if research is adequately funded
- 



Comparison

Homosexuality


- ❑ No choice
- ❑ “Natural”
- ❑ Little to no shared environmental influence
- ❑ No “cure”
- ❑ Not a psychological variant of sexual orientation
- ❑ Relationship between two humans

Heterosexuality

- ❑ No choice
- ❑ “Natural”
- ❑ Little to no shared environmental influence
- ❑ No “cure”
- ❑ Not a psychological variant of sexual orientation
- ❑ Relationship between two humans

How does this affect us?





As Seventh-day Adventist Christians in this Movement who have embraced the mid-night cry message of Equality, it is important that we zoom out and examine the available evidence concerning the parable of homosexuality against the backdrop of the worldviews in discussion.

Education
religion or belief
values
beliefs
policy access
equal norms rights sex agency
empowerment legislation
gender race fair
isability
ethnicity
age
youth work
celebrate
status
poverty
discrimination
anti-oppressive practice
sexual orientation
opportunities
class
justice
difference
diversity
equality