1. Are gays & lesbians inherently sinful because they can't procreate?

- Some people use Genesis and God's call to “be fruitful and multiply” as proof that homosexuality is inherently sinful. Actually, the purpose of these verses is to encourage the people of Israel to grow in population.

- There are several categories of people who cannot procreate. These include post-menopausal women, infertile men and women, sterile individuals and those who use birth control. Can we use the procreation argument for one group of people, but not for another?

- Can humans be fruitful in other ways? Do we bear fruit with our actions and time or only by having children?

2. Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve?

- Some use the Biblical verse that describes the creation of Eve as proof that Eve is subordinate to Adam. However, the key Hebrew phrase in this story is Ezer Kenegdo which means a “corresponding strength”.

- This story teaches us that God is not interested in gender, but in partnership. The ideal condition for humankind is companionship.

- Do same-sex partners offer companionship to each other?

3. Sodomites?

- Same-sex relationships have nothing to do with Sodom & Gomorrah. The cities were destroyed because the inhabitants committed rape and incest and failed to provide hospitality to strangers.

4. Should a “man not lie with a male”?

- These verses are part of the holiness code, created to separate the Israelites from other nations.

- Many “pick & choose” verses from this code while ignoring other verses such as the prohibition of eating shellfish or wearing clothes from mixed fabric.

- The Biblical law saying a man should not lay with a male has to do with property laws of that time and the fact that a man could not own a male the way he could a woman.
5. Is being gay or lesbian unnatural?
- The definition of "nature" in the 1st Century was defined by what upper-class people considered to be appropriate behavior. It was not based on scientific knowledge or an analytical study of human behavior.
- Homosexuality is found in nature; it is observed in the world of higher mammals.

6. & 7. Are gay people going to hell?
- There are two verses that list those who won't get into heaven. The Greek word aresenokoitai is included in this list and the word aresenokoitai has been translated to mean "homosexuals".
- The Greek word aresenokoitai only appears twice in the Bible so it's hard to know what the original word meant. It has been interpreted many ways including: Them that defile themselves with mankind, perverts, sexual perverts, those who are immoral with boys, and homosexuals.
- However, we know that the word "Homosexual" was not coined until 1869.
- This text is talking about those who commit a single sexual act. At the time Timothy & Corinthians were written, people had no common concept of a mutual, loving, committed relationship between people of the same sex.

Common myths

1. Is homosexuality a mental illness?
- The American Psychological Association removed homosexuality as a mental illness in the mid 1970's

2. Are homosexuals pedophiles?
- 90% of pedophiles are men and 98% of those men are heterosexual


3. Did Jesus say that homosexuality is wrong?
- Jesus said nothing about homosexuality
- The Ministry of Jesus focused on outreach to those marginalized and outcaste by society.
- Jesus was clear that external aspects of our body and aspects of our identity cannot be inherently sinful (such as skin color, family origin, gender, or sexuality).