

Homosexuality: Fact vs. Fiction

Fiction: Homosexuals are easy to spot at all times. Gay men are either men attempting to act like women or are flamboyantly feminine. Lesbians are masculine and are always attempting to seduce women.

Fact: Not all gays and lesbians are easy to spot. While some gay men may act feminine or some lesbians may act masculine, that is not indicative of all gays and lesbians. Also, there is nothing wrong with a gay man who acts feminine or a lesbian who acts masculine. In addition, lesbians are not out to seduce women; it is not a quality that is indicative of all lesbians in general.

Fiction: Gay men are men who have been “turned out” in prison.

Fact: That notion is false. Unfortunately, due to societal pressures, there has been no conclusive studies as to the cause of homosexuality. The issue is very polarizing so there may not ever be an conclusive studies for a while. However, the vast majority of scientific data on the subject suggests that homosexuality is not a choice.

Fiction: Homosexuality is in itself a harmful thing.

Fact: Members of so-called “traditional values” organizations push so-called studies that they claim demonstrates how homosexuality is a bad lifestyle. These studies are lies full of out of date sources, quotes taken out of context, and manipulated legitimate studies. No credible study has ever said that homosexuality in itself is a harmful thing.

Fiction: All homosexuals have sex the same way.

Fact: When it comes to sexual intercourse, people get squeamish, as well they should. There is a stereotype that all gay men are obsessed with anal sex. This is not true for gays any more than it is true for heterosexuals. Just like heterosexuals, some homosexual intercourse involves penetration. Again just like heterosexuals, a large amount of homosexual intercourse does not involve penetration.

Fiction: Homosexuals have a lot of sexual partners

Fact: This is another lie pushed by so-called “traditional values” organizations. Some homosexuals may have many instances of sexual intercourse, but then again, so do some heterosexuals. Still, some gays and lesbians are waiting for the right person to have a sexual relationship with. Frequency of sexual intercourse and variety of partners is not indicative of homosexuality.

Fiction: Homosexuals have shorter life spans than heterosexuals.

Fact: This is simply not true. This theory was and continues to be promoted by a discredited researcher by the name of Paul Cameron. Cameron used distorted methods to reach that conclusion. Members of “traditional values” organizations continue to use his study, even though all legitimate researchers do not. When they do not use his study, they cite a Canadian study conducted in 2001. The original researchers have since complained that their study has been misused by “traditional values” organizations.

Fiction: The Bible speaks against homosexuality.

Fact: That depends on whom one asks. Some people believe that the Bible is the total and unquestionable word of God. Others do not believe in such a literal interpretation. Some say that the story of Sodom and Gomorrah has to do with an old custom of hospitality and the edicts that Moses gave against

homosexuality should not stand up today because there were also edicts about sacrifices, women in their menstrual cycles, wearing of clothes, planting of crops, allowing slavery, as well as the wearing of beards. Some say that if one follows the edicts against homosexuality in the New Testament in which Paul condemned homosexuality, one must also say that women should be silent in church and not adorn themselves. After, all Paul gave out the latter two edicts. Still, others believe that the translation in the New Testament is wrong. It is up to the individual to make up his or her own mind. Ultimately, the final judgement will be God's.

Fiction: Gays molest children. Also, gay households confuse children.

Fact: The majority of child molesters identify as heterosexual white males. Also those who molest children are considered pedophiles - people who are sexually attracted to children. Several studies have shown that there is no link between homosexuality and pedophilia, just as there is no link between heterosexuality and pedophilia. Also, many gays and lesbians in the United States are already raising children. According to a recent study by the Black Justice Coalition and the Gay and Lesbian Task Force, black lesbian households are almost as likely as black married couple households to include children.

Fiction: Homosexuals can change their orientation.

Fact: This is not back by any legitimate scientific data. Homosexuality is not a mental disorder. The American Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, and the American Medical Association agree with this. In fact, the American Medical Association says that the problems experienced by gays and lesbians are due to the rejection they face. In fact, a great majority of so-called ex-gay organizations are in the employ of "traditional values" organizations. Their goal is not to help people with their orientation but to sow seeds of confusion and make life more difficult for gays and lesbians.

Fiction: Gays are trying to hijack the civil rights movement.

Fact: This is a blatant lie. While some gays may appropriate the language of the civil rights movement, others do not see a connection. In the general sense of people fighting for rights in the face of discrimination, a connection can be seen. However in terms of specific struggles and identification, the movements are not similar.

Fiction: Gays have it easy because they can hide who they are.

Fact: The ability to hide who you are can be more problematic than not having the ability. Because African-Americans were discriminated against because of the color of their skin, they were able to unite themselves and be a force to be reckoned with. The ability to hide in the closet actually hinders gays and lesbians because it gives them an easy, albeit transient solution, to the problem of homophobia rather than facing it head on.