

Being Gay Is Not A Choice

Is Homosexuality an Innate or Learned Behavior?

"At about the age of thirteen I began to notice girls—or should I say, it was then that I began to notice little else...It is, after all, only natural," Reports Thomas E. Schmidt. There are many stories just like this one that come from homosexuals, but ironically they all sound the same! "Rarely before have so many reacted so loudly to so little," said Dean Hamer. Hamer states that there is a rising argument in "Gay America!" Some arguments are supposed to incriminate homosexuality and title it as unnatural. Homosexuality is natural. The debate is being based on whether or not behavior is an imprisonment. If this is true, then Homosexuals would be imprisoned by homosexuality?

The truth of the matter is that the controversy has spread to a new frontier. The controversy being brought forth in "Gay America" is the environmental and biological aspects of homosexual behavior. Is this behavior something that is dormant inside of children or is this behavior something that parents should learn to shelter children from? People question whether or not homosexuality is environmental or biological, but people also question the genetics of homosexuality, case studies on the genetics, and whether homosexuality is a choice.

During the development of a child, genes are inherited. Genes are codes that give traits. Genes are passed from the parents to the child. It is very possible that the father's inherited traits may dominate over the mother's inherited traits. This is not unusual. Gene traits are a child's genetic make-up. Genes give eye color, hair color, skin complexion, height, and so on. Genes cause children to look like their parents, parents to look like their parents, and so on down the line. Sometimes genes are incorrectly placed. Behavior may be one of those incorrectly placed genes. Behavior is programmed by multiple genes, unlike eye color, which is programmed by only one gene. Homosexuality is a misplaced gene. Its directly inherited. "Even in the age of the human genome project, there are many who react with animosity and even outrage to the proposition that our genes play a major role in the development of specifically human behavioral traits," said P. Marler. Marler was right to believe that some will choose a side when it comes to the behavioral traits of humans.

There is a belief that there must be some kind of genetic reasoning for homosexuality. If there is a genetic reason for homosexuality, then that means that there is a "gay gene." Understanding this "gay gene" will explain this irreversible behavior. Simon Levay, a neurologist, theorized that the hypothalamus of the brain is smaller in homosexual men than in heterosexual men. Levay conducted his study on cadavers. He discovered that different brain formations can cause someone to be homosexual.

"Despite intellectual acknowledgement of the essential duality of the origins of high ability, most researchers are emotionally- sometimes passionately-attached to the defense of one extreme," said J. Sloboda. Sloboda was a one-sided researcher. Another issue that proves that this behavior is biological, is an hormonal imbalance. The endocrine, the pituitary, thyroid, adrenal, pancreas, ovaries (female), and testes (male), carry various hormones throughout the body. Hormones control and stimulate the body. The hormonal imbalance of a male or female may cause an erotic attraction to the same sex. In order for someone to be homosexual it would be logical to think that a male or female would either have more testosterone or more estrogen in the body to create an imbalance to support any facts of being homosexual.

Case studies show evidence that homosexuality is definitely an innate behavior. At one time or another a homosexual has said, "This is just the way I am!" Homosexuals say this because they feel like this is the way they are born, or in a sense this is just the way they were meant to be. Dean Hamer, conducted a study similar to Simon Levay's. He discovered that genes effect personality and sexual orientation. Hamer's long-term aim was to understand the interaction between genes and environmental factors to develop better methods for behavioral compromise (Dean). Dean came to the conclusion that males were more likely to become gay than females. He believed the "gay gene" was found in the "X" chromosome. "It's interesting, not because it is the gene that makes people believers or not, but because just finding that one gene, we think, tells us something about the whole brain biochemistry of spirituality," said Dean Hamer. Hamer thought that biological aspects of homosexuality were based on the gene and spirituality.

Herbert Marcuse said, "Glorification of the natural is part of the ideology which protects an unnatural society in its struggle against liberation." Marcuse said it best when he stated that

Homosexuals want to be free to be themselves as well as voice their own opinions. Due to surveys, it is reported that homosexuals believe that homosexuality is not a choice. People who think the opposite, think it's a self-justifying myth. People who engaged in same-sex activities, such as inmates, use homosexuality as an outlet to end their craving sexual desires. Some inmates do continue their homosexual behavior after prison but that is the only thing that is a choice. Others experiment out of curiousness. Curiosity does not make you homosexual! About 75% of people who took survey's believe that there is a such thing as a "gay gene." Although, of that 75%, 25% did not know what a "gay gene" was. 42% of the people who took the surveys felt strongly that there was a reason for homosexual behavior whether it be innate or not. 12% of the people who took the surveys thought that if homosexuality was a learned behavior, it would be learned from T.V., magazines, and the internet. 100% of the survey participants strongly believed that biology, socialization, environment or early reinforcement plays a part in the behavioral activity of homosexuality to some existent.

"This is just the way I am, this is just my way," states many homosexuals. Homosexuality is all a part of the human experience. Homosexual behavior is based on what someone chooses to believe, but homosexuality does have an origin. Heterosexual behavior could have easily been created only to reproduce, but over time people could have been taught to be "straight". Heterosexuality is one experiment that is still being tested and researched. This behavior is widely accepted unlike homosexuality. Heterosexuality like homosexuality could also have a gene that influences. Whose to say there isn't an imbalance of hormones that causes heterosexuality? Homosexuality and heterosexuality have been proven to have significant differences. Questions will always form on whether or not homosexuality is environmental or biological, but through case studies, surveys, and basic facts and statistics the questions have been answered!