

Interview with Vaughan Roberts on Same Sex Attraction

Vaughan Roberts, rector of [St Ebbe's, Oxford](#), and the author of *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible*, recently gave an [interview](#) to Julian Hardyman (senior pastor of [Eden Baptist, Cambridge](#)) in *Evangelicals Now* on his struggle with same-sex attraction. [David Ould](#) has highlighted some excerpts, which are reproduced below.

Does the disclosure that same sex attraction is one of your personal battles mean you are defining yourself as a homosexual?

No, it doesn't. . . . All of us are sinners, and sexual sinners. But, if we have turned to Christ, we are new creations, redeemed from slavery to sin through our union with Christ in his death and raised with him by the Spirit to a new life of holiness, while we wait for a glorious future in his presence when he returns.

These awesome realities define me and direct me to the kind of life I should live. In acknowledging that I know something of all eight battles covered in my book, therefore, I'm not making a revelation about my fundamental identity, other than that, like all Christians, I am a sinner saved by grace, called to live in the brokenness of a fallen world until Christ returns and brings all our battles to an end.

How do you think churches communicate [a] negative message?

The problem is largely caused by the fact that most of our comments on homosexuality are prompted, not primarily by a pastoral concern for struggling Christians, but by political debates in the world and the church. . . .

Also, in countering the simplistic binary model of the world that people are either born gay or straight (or, occasionally, bi), we are prone to make overly dogmatic comments ourselves about causation and cure. These can be heard to imply that homosexual attraction is just a matter of personal choice. This only increases the sense of shame already felt by those who experience unwanted same-sex attraction and can leave them with the impression that this is a battle that is not safe to share with others in the church. I have become convinced, therefore, that we need not only a greater openness in discussing issues of sexuality, but also a more positive vision and presentation of the nature of faithful discipleship for those who struggle in this area.

And is change possible? Can these attractions be redirected or altered?

The development of sexuality is complex and is, I think, best understood as being on a spectrum, along which individuals can move, especially in the years soon after puberty, but also later. A small proportion of people, including Christians, find that they remain exclusively attracted to the same sex as they grow into mature adulthood. God has the power to change their orientation, but he hasn't promised to and that has not been my experience.

Research suggests that complete change from exclusively homosexual desires to exclusively heterosexual ones is very rare.

While supporting the right of anyone to seek help to change if they wish, our emphasis needs to be on encouragement to be godly and content in current circumstances.

(<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/vaughn-roberts-on-same-sex-attraction/>)



8 July 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: What Would Jesus Say to The Same Sex Attracted?

While we were created by God as sexual beings our sin corrupts our desires—and so we wrap our identity around created things (idolatry) including our sexual desires. This corruption and idolatry wrecks our lives and offends God, causing his wrath to be justly upon us. But Jesus has come to restore our relationship with God, and when we have faith in Jesus he becomes the source of our identity, meaning and satisfaction in life.

Next Week:

What Would Jesus Say To... The Busy



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing	Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus This Life I Live Words of Life
Holy Communion	
Offering	
Community News	
Bible Reading	John 7:53-8:11
Sermon	By Pastor Steven Tran
Song of Response	Undivided

Stay Connected

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$2,908.20
Weekly Required	\$5,520
Shortfall 2018	\$0.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name:	SLE Church
Bank:	National Australia Bank
BSB:	084-424
A/C No:	396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD WHO GIVES US every good gift, including the material blessings that we have and enjoy.

GIVE EVEN GREATER PRAISE THAT GOD has revealed and given to us the greatest gift of His Son, through whom we receive every spiritual blessing, which are presently and eternally precious, beneficial and glorious to us.

CONFESS IDOLATRY OF MONEY AND MATERIALISM. Seek forgiveness that comes through Christ. Pray for the Spirit to transform the way we see and use money so that it would never be our master that we serve, but a servant that enables us to serve our true master Jesus. Pray for contentment and generosity and such a godliness in the use of money that will both be good for us as children of God, but also be a testimony to our money-loving world.

PRAY FOR THE MANY IN OUR CHURCH WHO ARE experiencing illnesses and those recovering from injury or surgery.

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE ONGOING implementation of our church's Mission, Values and Vision.

Community News

GROW WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

When we see so much wrong in our world and in us, and all seems out of control, how do we keep going? Who and what do we hang on to? Is our only choice to just keep calm and carry on... hoping all will be OK?

Come to GROW 2018 and meet Jesus through the book of Habakkuk. Bewildered by so much that is wrong everywhere, Habakkuk cries to God in protest. God's answer is unexpected, glorious, and personal. Habakkuk listened. Are we listening too?

Grow is an annual women's conference by QCCA. It will be held on **4 August, Saturday 9—3:30pm** at St Peter's Lutheran College Performing Arts Centre (Indooroopilly). Jenny Baddeley and Keiyeng Nation will be speaking on the book of Habakkuk. Register online at <http://qcca.org.au/grow/> under "SLE Church" for a group price of \$52 (including morning tea and lunch).

Serving

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Randy <i>David</i>	Mervin <i>Marcus</i>
Preach	Ps Steven	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Andrew <i>Jessica</i>	Chi <i>Alice</i>
M.Tea	Daisy Boon	Winnie T. Marilyn
Wash Up	SOS Dan	SaLT
Welcome	Esther Richard Georgie <i>Marcus</i> <i>James</i> <i>Joy</i> <i>Leya</i>	Esther Richard Georgie <i>Marcus</i> <i>James</i> <i>Joy</i> <i>Leya</i>
Stewards	Sunny Graham <i>Josh</i> <i>Josiah</i> <i>Nethanel</i>	Sunny Graham <i>Josh</i> <i>Josiah</i> <i>Nethanel</i>
Piano	Liesl	Dan Lowe
Guitar	Ivan	Dom
Bass	Chuan Yuan	Ethan
Drums		Marcus
Vocal	Joachim	Alisha
PA	Li Wei <i>Matt</i>	Reuten <i>Daniel</i>

What Would Jesus Say To... The Same-Sex Attracted

Intro: the 'shibboleth' of our age (cf Judges 12:4-6)

What would Jesus say to the same-sex attracted?

1. “You were created by God for worship (and sex)…” (Genesis 2)
2. “Sin has disfigured your worship (and sex)…” (Genesis 3, Romans 1:18-3:20)
3. “I affirm monogamous heterosexual marriage…” (Matthew 19:3-9)
4. “I will reject all who are unrepentant in sin…” (Revelation 21:8)
5. “Yet I do not condemn the sinner (who repents)… for I am full of compassion” (John 7:53-8:11)
6. “I seek true worshippers…” (John 4:1-30, 39-42)

For the same-sex attracted:

- i. See the brokenness of what the world promises
- ii. See that same-sex attraction does not disqualify you forever
- iii. See that following Jesus is costly, but worth it

For the non-same-sex attracted:

- i. Responding to 'coming out'
- ii. Pastoral care