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English 1101

November 17<sup>th</sup>,2018

### **Is Homosexuality a Choice or Genetic?**

The topic being gay is biological or genetic has being debated for many years. Till this we still debate about this topic. Do you think being gay is genetic or is a choice being gay? Do you think being gay is not fully biological but has to do with experiences with our environment, religion or culture? From the articles “The Last Mile” a chapter of a book “The Gene” by Siddhartha Mukherjee, “The Innate, Immutable Argument Finds no Basis in Science,” by Dean Byrd, Ted talk “How Homosexuality Benefits Evolution” by James O’Keefe, “Everything you Need to Know About Being Gay in Muslim Countries,” by Brian Whitaker, “‘God Made You This Way,’ Pope Is Said to Have Told Gay Man” by Jason Horowitz, “Pas de Deux of Sexuality Is Written in the Genes,” by Nicholas Wade and “Born or Bred, by Newsweek Staff shows how homosexuality is preserved as in today's society and what people has to do to accept homosexual people. Homosexuality is having an affiliation or sexual activities with the same sex. It is now becoming a basic thing for people to come out about who they are. It may be because of curiosity interest or something that happens in their life. Homosexuality is not only genetic but is also influences by environments, religions, culture, evolution and family. Some families accept their gay children who are gay, and some don’t. However, some people would say that being gay is a choice not a biological thing.

Homosexuality is a topic with different views it. For some scientists it is biological meaning it is inherited from the womb. In the article “Innate-Immutable Argument Finds No

Basis in Science” homosexuality is not only biological but also influenced by what you experience in your environment and has its consequences. “DNA is located at the top the tip of the X-chromosome that is inherited from the mother.” (Byrd 1). This means that the X-chromosome carried by the mother is inherited by their son which then influences the preference son causing them to be gay or more feminine and liking their own gender. A researcher named Dean Hamer made this conclusion on how the X- chromosome is linked to homosexuality. Not only does he say is biological, but he also initiates that it is not only biological but also from environmental factors. Hamer’s research proved that being gay is genetic by analyzing family trees and DNA of 114 families of homosexual men. He and his team found a higher percentage of homosexuality from the parent's side which is inherited from the females “It is possible that differences in sexual behavior cause (rather than are caused) by differences in the brain.” (Byrd 2). When a person experiences different sexual experiences their brain can alter their preference just like your genes can too. However, some people would say that being gay is a choice not a biological thing.

In “The Last Mile” a chapter of a book “The Gene” by Siddhartha Mukherjee, the gay gene is inherited from mothers because of the X-chromosome carried by the mother and they tend to have other gay relatives like gay uncles or siblings. Many researchers try to find the reason why people “Gay men tended to have gay uncles.” (Mukherejee 376). This is explaining as to how the gay gene is in the family is getting picked up as men are being born in the family. Hamer constructed an experiment with brothers and noticed that gay men’s family trees had other gay relatives. Hamer did another research with 409 siblings and found out that the Xq28 regulates testosterone receptor which is known for sexual behavior of a person. Another researcher named Bailey was able to change the conversation about sexual identity with the results of his twin experiment. “Among the fifty-six pairs of identical twins were gay in 52

percent. Of the fifty-four pairs of non-identical twins' 22 percent were both gay, lower than the fraction for identical twins.....” (Mukherejee 373). Identical twins have a higher chance of both being gay as to non-identical twins have a lower chance of both twins being gay. Bailey believed being gay is not just based on being gay but on experience with family, friends, school and social structure influence modified sexual behavior. However, some people would say that being gay is a choice not a biological thing.

Different cultures and religions have different rules and regulations they live by. If their child was to come out gay, they would most likely not accept them for who they are. There are fundamentalists who follow what their holy script would tell them instead of being opened to new things in the world. In the article “‘God Made You This Way,’ Pope Is Said to Have Told Gay Man.” by Jason Horowitz it states that “A Chilean survivor of clerical sex abuse has said that Pope Francis told him in a private meeting this month that God had made him gay and both God and Pontiff loved him this way.” (Horowitz 2). This shows that even the Pope who is a religious person and teaches the word of God told this man God loves him no matter what he is and accepted a gay man without hesitation. The Pope does not think being gay is a choice but the way God made you. However, some people would say that being gay is a choice not a biological thing.

The Pope showed that no matter what people’s sexual orientation what they identify he accepted him for who he was the best thing anyone could do for them. “The intent of the book is to help pastors develop an understanding as well as a capacity for accomplishments, towards their homosexual brothers and sisters.” This book is talking about how pastors, catholic bishops and catholic members should accept gay people into their community without judging them in any way and respect who they are or identify as. It is hard for religious people to accept homosexuals in their religion because of their beliefs and how they were raised.

In the article “Born or Bred, by Newsweek Staff, it shows that researchers have been working on proving to prove that being gay is genetic but gay people do not want this to be proven they just want to be accepted as they are. “..... after Bailey’s work, the results showed that if one identical twin is gay, the other is almost three times likely to be gay than if the twins are fraternal-suggesting that something in the identical twins shared genetic makeup affected their sexual orientation”. (Newsweek staff 1) This means that since the twins developed this gene from their mother, if one twin is gay then the other is also most likely to be gay because identical twins share the same DNA that affects their sexual preference. Some people would rather not want to talk about why gay people are gay or what caused them to be gay. “Homosexuality, began in my classes recently by suggesting students discuss the causes of homosexuality, someone called out “Who cares?” and the class burst into applause.” (Newsweek staff 4) This is justifying how the younger generation does not care about what caused someone to be gay but rather how people are going to accept them. However, some people would say that being gay is a choice not a biological thing.

Other people disagree with scientists who have done research on being gay being a biological thing. “Many scientists are too naïve to think that a single gene could account for so complex a behavior as, homosexuality.” (Newsweek staff 3). This justifies why the gay gene cannot be a specific gene, but it could be multiple genes. It might have started from the fetus or started when it started when they hit puberty. Nobody knows when it started. “But younger psychiatrists now are taught that rather than trying to “cure” homosexuals, they should help them feel more comfortable about themselves.” Newsweek staff 4). The new generation psychiatrist is taught to help homosexuals feel more comfortable with themselves rather than trying to cure them from being homosexual. Back in the 1950s and 1960s they would treat homosexual people

as sick then try to cure them from being homosexual, but it seems that it could not work because homosexuality is still present to this day.

It is still hard for gay people to come out gay because of how society views gay people differently. Younger generations are good with accepting people who identify with a different gender from what they are but on the other hand the older generations are still used to the way things were in their generation. Some older generations think that being gay is disrespectful to the parents and fundamentalists think that God did not create gay people. Gay people want to be identified as people so they would not be going against God's words and committing a sin against God. People say a man is to a woman not a man to a man or a woman to a woman. In the new generation everything is possible as to a man can marry a man and a woman can marry a woman. Scientists have done many researches proving that there is a reason why people are gay not only by genetics but by the influence in their environment too.

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