

for the BIBLE tells me so

This documentary is about homosexuality and its perceived conflict with Christianity, as well as various interpretations of what the Bible says about same-sex sexuality. Is the chasm separating gays and lesbians and Christianity too wide to cross?

After watching the film, answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper in complete sentences.

1. The term “abomination” comes up several times in the film. What does this mean? When some Christians say that homosexuality is an abomination, what are they really saying about it?
2. The term “literalist” comes up several times in the film. What does being a Biblical literalist mean?
3. In the film, Rev. Peter Gomes says, “[Literalists] are failing to read the Bible within the context of its authors and of its original culture.” What does he mean by this?
4. Please watch the following clip from the TV show *The West Wing*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSXJzybEeJM>
What point was the president (played by Martin Sheen) trying to make? In your opinion, is his argument effective or not? Explain.
5. What does it say about this debate and its connection to religion that when Bishop Gene Robinson was sworn in as an openly gay clergy member of the Episcopalian Church in 2004, he had to wear a bullet proof vest under his vestments?
6. The film explores the story of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Bible. What are two different ways of interpreting this story and its meaning?
7. In this film, you hear different opinions of Christians on what the Bible says on the issue of homosexuality. How can different people read the same holy book yet come to different results as to what it says?

8. Explain what these gentlemen meant with their quotes, and how it pertains to this debate:

“The Bible, like any complex historical text, presents a God who can be called upon to justify mass genocide and who can be called upon to justify mercy to widows and orphans – same God – depends on what parts of the text you want to interpret.”

-Noam Chomsky, MIT professor

“Religion is so broad that it can provide any answer you want.”

Alan Dershowitz, lawyer and author

9. We live in a secular country where the separation between Church and state is a key tenet to our political system, so why does it even matter what the Bible or religious leaders say about homosexuality?

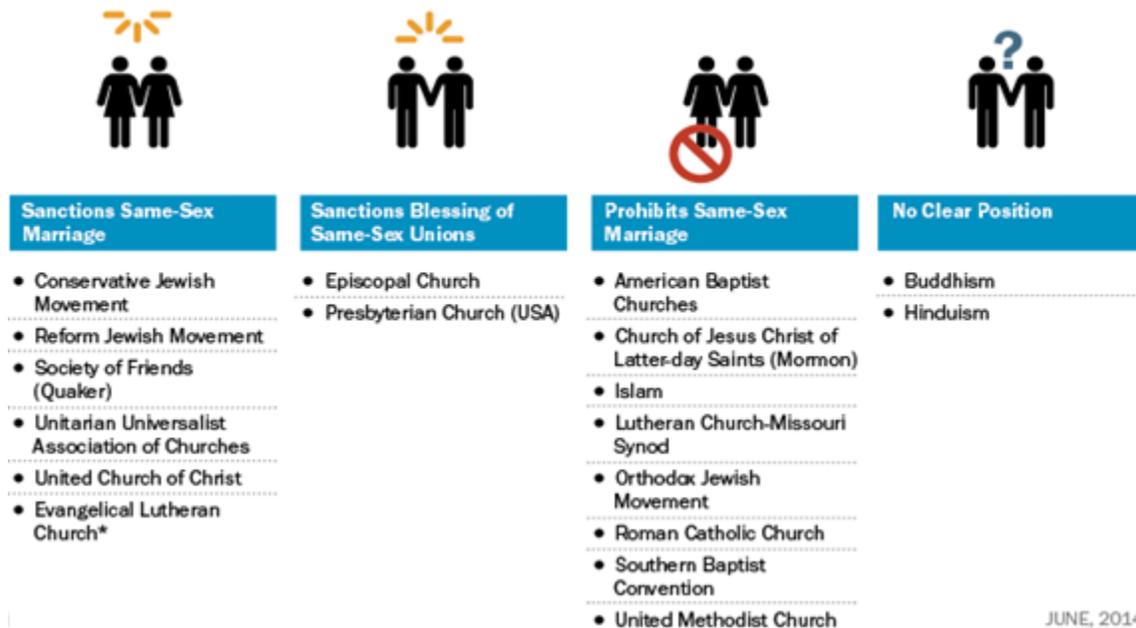
10. From the film, list 2 reasons that are stated that show the Bible supports gay people, and 2 reasons that show that it does not:

SUPPORTS

DOESN'T SUPPORT

11. Various religions, and even denominations within religions, have differing views of homosexuality. What does the following chart say about religion and homosexuality?

Where Major Religions Stand on Same-Sex Marriage



12. In 2013, Pope Francis I, the leader of 1.2 billion Catholics around the world, said, "If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has goodwill, who am I to judge?" After seeing the film, explain why this was viewed as such a controversial and shocking statement from the Pope.