



Morality and Homosexuality

PHIL 102
Ethics, Politics, & Law
Spring 2008



Sources of Morality

- **Religious**
 - **Divine command**
 - **Natural Law**
- **Utilitarian**
- **Deontological**
- **Ethical relativism**
- **Ethical skepticism**



Sexual Morality

- **Purpose of sex**
 - **Procreation**
 - **Marriage**
 - **Love**
 - **Inter-personal contact**
 - **Pleasure**
- **What sexual things are wrong?**
- **What makes them wrong?**



Homosexuality

- **How common?**
 - **Mohr**
 - **10% figure**
 - **Studies in Britain**
- **How accurate?**
 - **Definition of homosexuality**
 - **Stigma and underreporting**

Attitudes Toward Homosexuals



- **Prejudice**
 - Racism
 - Sexism
 - Discrimination
- **Fear**
 - Homophobia
- **Moral offense**
 - Abortion/homosexuality
- **Toleration**
- **Inclusion**

Is Homosexuality Immoral?



- **Objectivism/Relativism/
Skepticism**
- **What makes it wrong?**
 - **Religious ethics**
 - Divine command
 - Biblical authority
 - Natural law
 - **Secular ethics**
 - **Cultural attitudes**

Morality and the Law



- **Believing something is wrong**
 - Judgments about parenting
 - Judgments about my colleagues
 - Judgments about sex
 - Judgments about homosexuality
- **Should the be part of
social/legal policy?**
- **Legal moralism**
- **Harm to others principle**