

THE CHALLENGE OF MALE HOMOSEXUALITY:
THEOLOGY, MORALITY, AND HALAKHAH

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Abstract

The present article examines the halakhic attitudes toward homosexuality in Modern Orthodoxy and in the Conservative movement, through the prism of “*Aqedah* Theology” and the link between religion and morality. The article argues that even if there is no clear halakhic boundary between some of the positions of Conservative and Modern Orthodox Judaism, there is a clear difference between them regarding *Aqedah* theology. For Modern Orthodoxy, even if God commands certain things that on the surface clash with contemporary moral concepts, individuals are expected to sacrifice or “bind” their inclinations to comply with the divine injunction. This is not the case in the Conservative movement. Here the debate is not about whether *Aqedah* theology is legitimate (all agree that it is not), but whether or not the situation of a human being who is barred from realizing his sexual orientation involves “binding” moral concepts.