

Shere Hite

Men who have sex with both women and men

A chapter from

The Hite Report on Male Sexuality

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Men who liked sexual relations with both men and women found there was little sympathy or understanding for their point of view:

“Bisexuality is nowhere in this society dealt with as a potentially open, valid, and acceptable option. My gay friends are annoyed that I’m ‘half straight,’ and my straight friends are waiting for me to ‘come to my senses.’ Talk about alienation.”

“Because of my relationships with both men and women, people insist on trying to put me in a category. To some I am a closet homosexual who keeps his relationships with women only to hide his true personality from the outside world and himself. To others, I am a heterosexual who is disturbed by some childhood experience. In actuality I am a human being who enjoys sharing intimate experiences with other human beings with whom I feel friendship, love, or compassion. If the label ‘bisexual’ is slapped on my reply, I will be very disappointed.”

“I think the work gay organizations are doing is heroic and necessary. But I often feel that I can’t get behind gay stands on things because they tend to exclude people who have heterosexual interests. It seems you have to be labeled, you have to fit into somebody’s stereotype or you don’t count. What I think civilized society really needs is bisexual liberation.”

“I refuse to be considered gay or straight. I want only to be accepted as a human being,”

One man, age seventy-three, predominantly homosexual, explained the advantages he saw in "bisexuality":

“I like the muscularity of well-maintained male bodies, and especially a male organ that gets fairly hard. Nevertheless, I do not recommend exclusive homosexuality. Sex with women is not only functional for procreation, but it also provides its own varieties of sensual and emotional pleasure, and failure to engage in it handicaps one in fully understanding and appreciating half the human race. So my recommendation to young men who feel themselves to be exclusively homosexual is to try heterosexual relations before habit crystallizes their emotions to the point that their fear of non-performance with women makes them reluctant to try. I believe that almost all males have considerable heterosexual as well as homosexual tendencies - at least until conditioning in our homophobic culture freezes most of them as heterosexual (but also some become frozen as homosexual). At the same time, having had pleasurable homosexual relations has benefits for those men who are predominantly heterosexual beyond the brief sensual and possibly emotional satisfactions of actual sex. It produces a useful sensitivity towards one’s own sex, tends to reduce aggressive hostility and competitiveness - and makes for pleasanter situations (non-sexual) when males are together.”

Four percent of the men in this study (plus an additional 2 percent who were previously included in the statistic on men who prefer sex with other men) had and enjoyed sex with both men and women. Most of them had had very infrequent sexual relations with men, while having most of their sex with women.

An extremely small minority of other men had very regular sex with both men and women as an ongoing part of their lives; most felt surprisingly comfortable about it. Following are two men's replies:

“I have always been bisexual, a tag I don’t actually approve of, but for the sake of communication it will have to do. I spent a good deal of my life, about forty years, being ashamed of my love and attraction for men. I became, as I got older, more and more neurotic, and more and more withdrawn sexually from my wife, who was very much into being married, and particularly to me. My wife suffered terribly because of this, and was deprived because she hung on to the relationship sexually, despite the fact that we had practically stopped having sex together. I was a very successful businessman, but one day I just suddenly threw in the towel. As the gay movement was becoming more acceptable, I somehow had to come out, or I was going to have to walk out on my family, which I was very much attached to... I have four daughters.

“My wife suspected that I had homosexual desires, and confronted me with them, and that was the beginning of my doing something about it. I went to a therapist and like a bull in a china shop, I worked at myself. For the first time I was able to confront all the shit that had been put on me by society, by my parents, and by other men, and in the end by my wife’s expectation of what I was supposed to be as a man. It took three years to fight our way through all the hang-ups, and all the expectations, and all the pressure that had been applied to us. It wasn’t easy, it was full of pain, and a lot of suffering. We nearly parted about six times... but somehow there was a deep and real commitment between us. It’s O.K. now - we live together, we enjoy each other, she has accepted what I am, and I have learned to understand her needs more. It’s very much a middle-class monogamous relationship, but with me having the right to express my sexuality also with men, without her being offended or threatened. I don’t think that in the end I would have been able to be fully homosexual, and I am very pleased that I have a sexual partner like my wife, with whom I have a real good understanding in bed.

“I got married because I did really fall in love with my wife. And after all the traumas of our life, we have a fantastic relationship, caring and sensitive. But I am sure that I married not only because I loved her, but also because it was expected of me that I would marry - any suggestion that I wouldn’t was frowned on, and looked at suspiciously. With my attraction for men, it became, in a lot of ways, a method of escaping the judgment of society. I wish I had had the advantage of the openness or the near openness there is today about homosexuality. Then at least my wife and I would never have had the awful periods of pain we suffered in the 1950’s and early 1960’s.

“My feelings about sex have changed with time. For example, with regard to intercourse (which I love) – in my youth I just got in and came, without understanding anything about myself or my wife, or the guys that I went to bed with. It was as if intercourse, fucking, was just getting your prick active, and always having to come to prove that you were a man. But now – it’s my sensitivity to my partners and to myself that has made

the difference. I want sex, or intercourse, to consummate the fullness of my feelings towards another human being... it's the statement of my love and affection.

"I have learned that I can have an orgasm without an ejaculation, and in some ways that is mind-blowing, also that my wife doesn't feel that I have to come every time we have sex. What the hell – orgasm is not the whole story! But after orgasm, I feel fantastic, I want to hang on to my partner forever afterwards, the problem is that my wife wants to curl up on her side of the bed and go to sleep after we have hugged and tickled. I would like to sleep in the feeling of the sexual act itself, that is very close and touching.

"I like to take a long time with arousal, so does my wife. It's not that it's the best part of sex, but arousal is such an exciting and meaningful period because it is the statement of wanting and appreciating your partner. Touching and kissing is vital.

"I enjoy oral sex... it gives me a feeling that I can show my deepest affection not only through my prick. I like the look, and the feeling to my mouth. They seem to express the whole concept of life, the great tunnel of creation... it's warm and comforting. I put my tongue right into her vagina... it tastes salty. My throat feels open, I am doing it because there is a need in me. My partner will tell me when and how she wants it done.

"I think that men are more open to using their mouths, but that may simply be a physiological reason... I don't know, it's different – more passion, but less feeling. Women are much more caring about the way they use their mouths, men are a bit violent, or at least more aggressive.

"Sometimes I like anal penetration but it is a bit sore, I need to be very turned on by the guy to want to be fucked. I don't orgasm, in fact I lose my erection.

"I like men's bodies, and their smell. I like the feeling of their strength, and the feeling of their and my bodies together. I also like their penises. But by comparison I find the whole process of sex with women more meaningful. I am not sure that this may not be the taboo with which I was brought up, but somehow there is a deeper feeling of awareness with a woman than with a man... I know for sure that I could never live with a man in a monogamous relationship, but I have lived more or less with my wife for thirty years, and wouldn't change that experience for a homosexual 'marriage.' Actually I don't believe in marriage at all, I believe that two people don't need the formality of a marriage ceremony but we have made a fetish of it in our society, society needs the value judgment of the stamp of a certificate to value human relationships. Plus, in our society, in marriage the woman becomes the possession of the man by virtue of a piece of paper with the approval of the Church. This is what women are fighting to prevent. Men have to change the basis of their attitudes before there is going to be meaningful status for women on an equal basis for the future,

"I think that the women's liberation movement, however unstructured it may be at the moment, is the most important and significant political and social event since the French Revolution, and certainly since the Russian Revolution. It has this importance because for the first time women have said clearly that any change in society has to acknowledge the need for men to change their dominance, whether in a revolutionary situation or not. Thus the future of the world will never quite be the same as the movement grows in strength, and as the Western world accepts the equality of women, let's hope the socialist world will also, not just in theory but in reality.

“That’s enough. I have enjoyed answering these questions. My wife and I went through the book together, and we went through these questions together. It helped iron out a whole lot of shit between us, and I hope what I have written helps others too.”

“There is one thing I must ask. Maybe it’s just me. But here it goes. I am thirty-one years old, my wife is twenty-six. We have a fourteen-month-old baby girl. I myself have had a lot of sexual contacts with both sexes. It started very early in my life at the age of eight, with an older boy of fifteen years. He did everything to me, from kissing me and making me take off my clothing very slowly, then he would take my penis in his hand and start kissing it, then sucking it. Then he would turn me around and do the same to my rectum. He told me not to tell anyone, 'cause if I did he would take care of me in a way I wouldn’t like. This went on for some time, till I was around twelve. Then my family and I moved to the other side of town. I didn’t see that boy again, but would always think how good he made me feel, then I would masturbate while thinking of him.

“When I started high school I found a new friend, a boy, we started sleeping over each other’s homes. And before you knew it we were making it with each other and I liked it. We would make believe that one of us was the girl and then take turns going down on each other. And having intercourse with each other till we both would come. This went on for three years, we had other boys we would mess around with also. One night this boy and six others of us were staying at my house overnight while my mother and father were away for the weekend. Someone had gotten some girly books and we all got hot and picked partners, stripped, and played with each other. You name it and we did it. Then all of us would take a turn sucking each boy, and taking it up the ass. Then all eight of us made it with the other. This went on till four that morning, then we all fell asleep.

“After a few more gang bangs the club started to break up because we all started to date girls. I also would date girls, mess around with them. But yet I was still longing for a male partner and would make it with any boy that would,

“When I turned twenty I started to date more and now the girls would let me have intercourse with them. We would go down on each other, have sex, and then leave. That was until I met a girl around five years older than myself, with three kids and a man and ring. She was the first woman that had me doing all kinds of things to her. Things that I have never even seen in a skin book. And she would do the same things to me. Now in between our meetings I was going out with other girls and once more with other boys.

“Then five or six weeks later I was to meet my wife. We had intercourse and all that before we were made as one. And we knew that each of us had intercourse before we met. Our sex drives were hot until the baby came. Then for around eight months she slowed down, only having sex around one to two days a week. So before I started to run on her, I thought that we should have a talk. We both just came right out and told each other how we felt. And then for the next few weeks, we had intercourse three to four times a week. Then it started to happen again. She would go out with her grandmother and girlfriends at night to play bingo. Once, then three or four times a week. Leaving me home by myself to take care of the baby. So again I had a talk with her. And things were all right for a while, When it started up again, I started to run on her and would let her stay home to look after the baby. But I had to stop because I couldn’t face her or when we

did have intercourse I felt like hell. So I stopped running and now I am in the same spot I was in before.

“She says all I think about is sex and all the crazy things I would like her to do. She doesn’t mind if I go down on her or eat her ass and she enjoys sometimes doing the same to me. But most of the time when I feel like having sex, if I take too long, say fifteen to twenty minutes, she gets mad at me, then in turn I get mad and I’ll stop and she’ll just turn over and fall asleep. Leaving me to play with myself till I make myself come. I don’t know, maybe it is me. I do always think of sex, it’s on my mind most of the time.

“Do I need help? Am I a sex nut because all I think of is making it with someone, male and female? But I don’t – I just think about doing it, get myself all hot, and end up playing with myself till I come. Am I the only man that has these same feelings over and over? I hope not. One thing you must believe, I love my wife very much and I know that she loves me. She’s a good mother, she keeps herself neat and clean, as I do. We both do the housework on weekends. But when it comes to sex, she does it when she gets ready, and when she does she goes all the way and holds nothing back. But that’s only once or twice a month. Any other time she’s cold. Can you help me?”

„The Hite Report on Male Sexuality“ can be purchased at www.amazon.com

“Hite Report – Das Sexuelle Erleben des Mannes” ist erhältlich bei www.amazon.de