

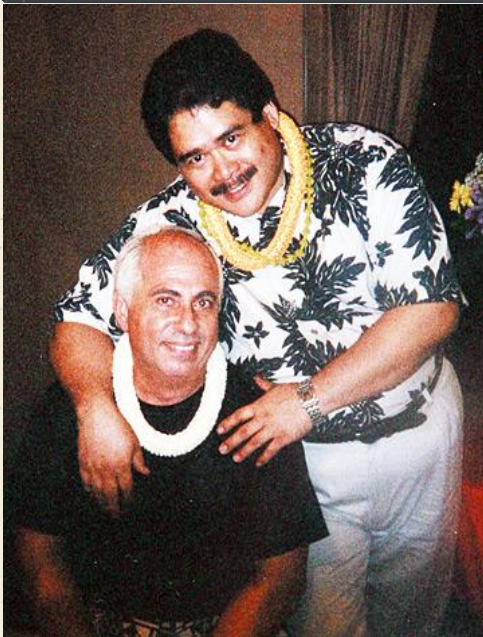
Gender & Sex in Ancient Greece



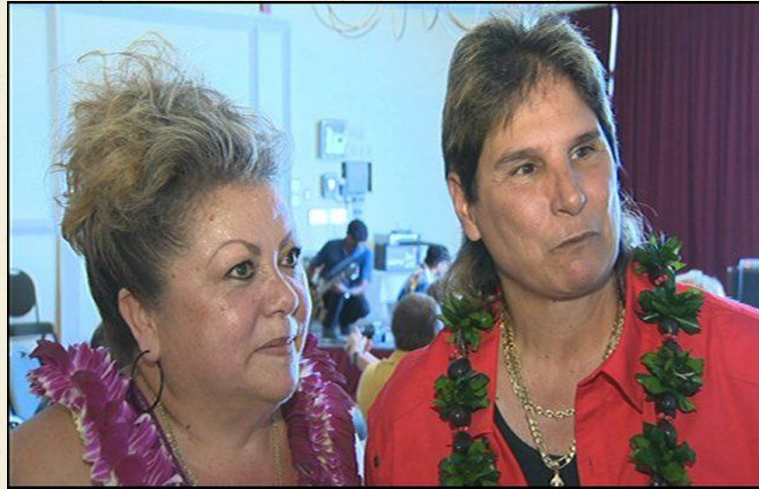
Tess Lambert August 2021



Baehr vs. Lewin (Miike)
1991, Hawaii



Pat Lagon & Joseph
Melillo

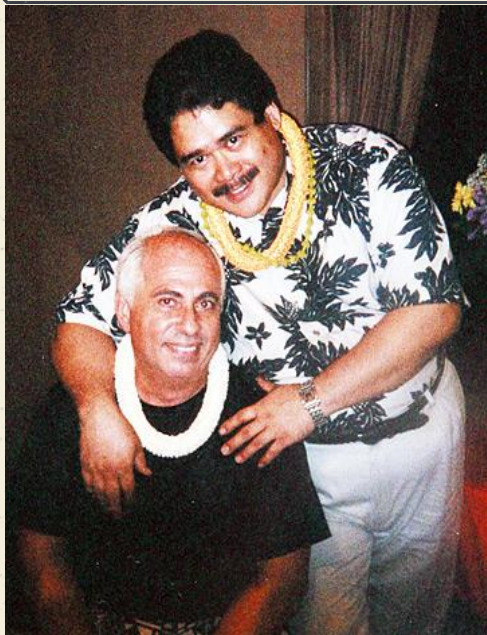


Tammy Rodrigues & Antoinette Pregil



Ninia Baehr & Genora Dancel

So, we've been tracing the fight for gay marriage on our reform line starting when it first became a mainstream popular fight in 1989. I've said before, that this was not immediately a popular fight even among the gay community. I gave one example, it was the Civil Rights organization that was meant to represent LGBT people.



Pat Lagon & Joseph
Melillo

Baehr vs. Lewin (Miike) 1991, Hawaii

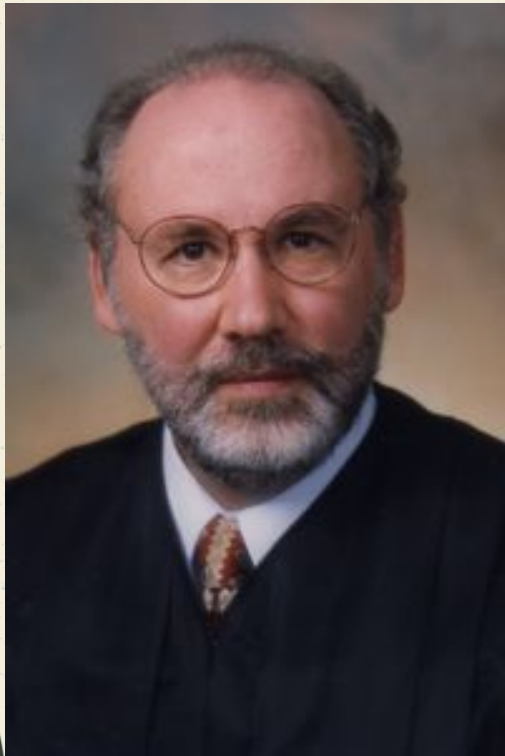


Tammy Rodrigues & Antoinette
Pregil



Ninia Baehr & Genora Dancel

When three couples sued the state of Hawaii in 1991, LAMBDA (Legal Defense and Education Fund) refused to assist or represent them. That's how much the gay community itself has changed since pre 1989-2015. There's been a radical transformation. In 1991, it was a white heterosexual male who took up the case and fought for them. I say that to illustrate just how much has changed within the last 32 years.

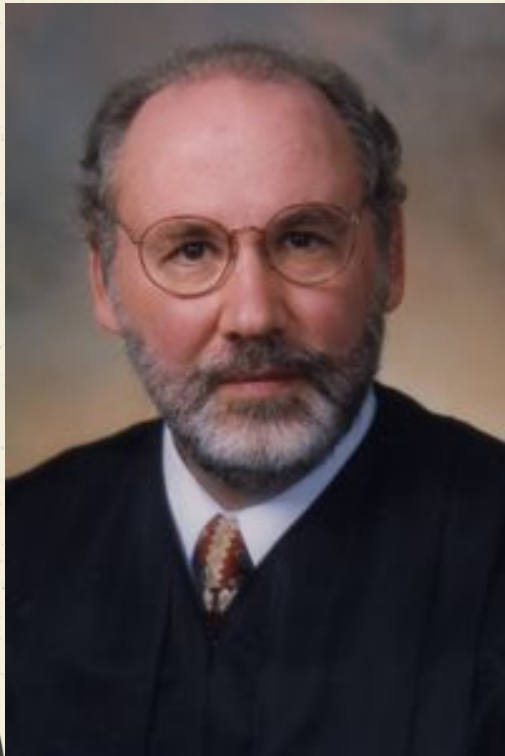


Daniel Foley
Former ACLU
Director, Hawaii

While working as a civil rights attorney, Daniel Foley represented three same-sex couples who sued the state of Hawaii because the Hawaii Health Department refused to give them a license to marry. The landmark case, which came to be known as *Baehr v. Miike*, was filed in 1990 and was the first of its kind.

It stated that the couples met all requirements for marriage in the state of Hawaii except that they were of the same sex. No law in the state at that time said that marriage must be between a man and a woman. The trial court, however, dismissed the case in 1991.





Daniel Foley
Former ACLU
Director, Hawaii

Daniel Foley told HONOLULU Magazine in 1995, when he took the case he didn't expect to win, but he felt the couples deserved their day in court.

"I had never thought of marriage as anything other than a man and woman. But, I felt, being married myself and having the rights and benefits of marriage, who am I to say no to them?"

The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that the case had merit and that preventing same-sex marriage was discrimination. The case was sent back to a lower court for trial in 1993. The court noted that the state must show a compelling interest in prohibiting same-sex marriage.



DIFFERENT FAMILIES. SAME LOVE.

I SUPPORT LGBT-INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION.



#HopeForLGBTequality



When we come to 2010 gay marriage is an issue in the United Kingdom. In 1989, a charity was set-up and it was called the Stonewall Charity and as of today they are the largest LGBT lobbying group in Europe.

In 2010, people are fighting for gay marriage in the UK and the head of the Stonewall charity goes public and he says, "we have not given a position of gay marriage and we wont now."

The Stonewall Charity ended up changing their tune because of the amount of angry responses to that statement. History is so complicated because it's never one nice and neat storyline with good guys and bad guys. This is how much has changed since 1989.



Ben Summerskill
Stonewall Chief Executive
2003-2014

Stonewall under the leadership of Ben Summerskill came under criticism in September 2010, after he made comments at a Liberal Democrat party conference event.

Summerskill's comments were criticised by two of Stonewall's co-founders: Michael Cashman who wrote an op-ed entitled "What part of 'equality' can't Stonewall understand?"; and Sir Ian McKellen stated that Stonewall should put marriage equality on their agenda.

Summerskill defended his comments at the Labour Party conference a week later after LGBT Labour activists criticised Stonewall's lack of transparency and democracy, and failure to lobby for marriage.

He stated that "Stonewall has never pretended to be a democratic member organization. We have never said we speak for all lesbian, gay and bisexual people."





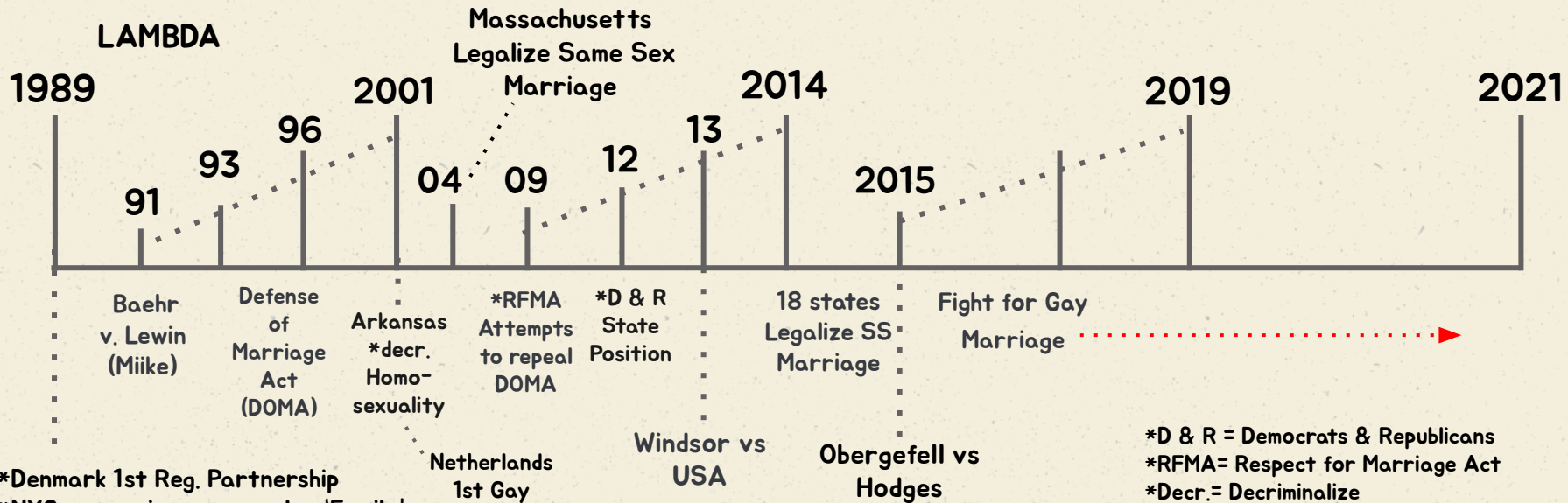
Ben Summerskill
Stonewall Chief Executive
2003-2014

However, in the face of pressure from the LGBT community, Stonewall announced in October 2010 their support for same-sex marriage. During his time at Stonewall, Summerskill attracted controversy over the organisation's decision not to campaign on transgender issues.

In 2008 the Stonewall Awards faced protests from transgender rights activists, but Summerskill maintained that the organization should exclusively campaign for "gay men, lesbians and bisexuals". The policy of excluding transgender issues was reviewed within months of his 2014 departure and eventually reversed.

In November 2011 Anthony Ryan, 42, received an eight-month prison sentence at Liverpool Crown Court after threatening to "put a bullet in the head" of Summerskill. Ryan, whose sentence was suspended for 18 months, suggested that Summerskill, "start making funeral arrangements."





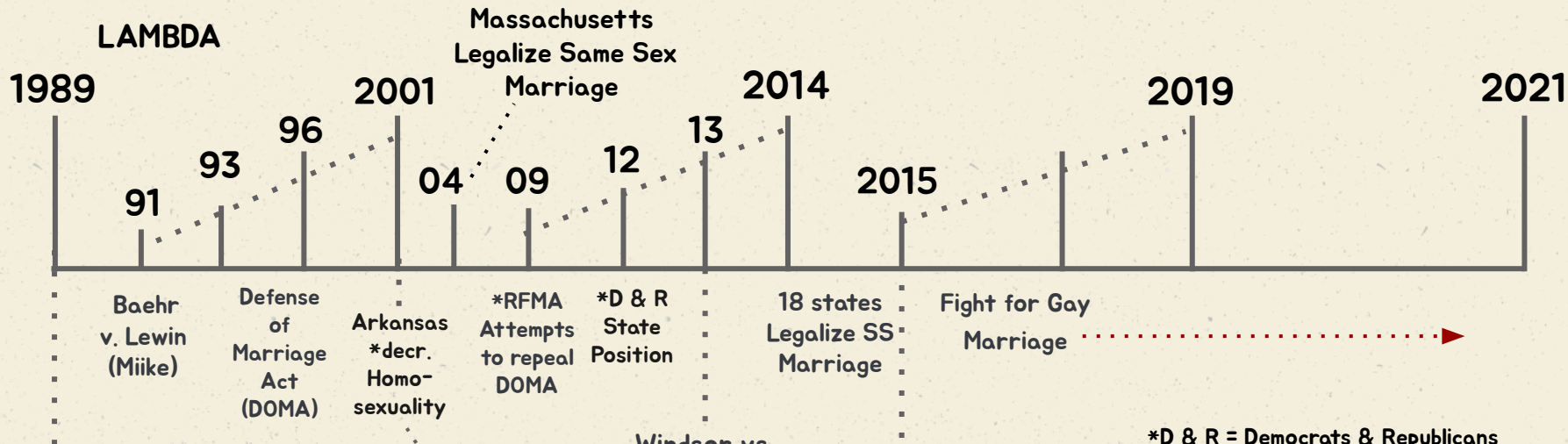
- *Denmark 1st Reg. Partnership
- *NYC, recognize gay couples 'Family'
- *Andrew Sullivan, TNR
- *Argument for Gay Marriage
- *CA state Bar Association
- *Matthias Freihof, film 'Coming Out'

DOMA

1. Name
2. No State recognizes SS Marriage from other states
3. Federal Gov. does not rec. Gay Marriage

We traced this movement through 1989, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2004, 2009 and 2012. As we would expect, it comes to a crisis point and 2014 is the midpoint. It's a turning point year in its own right, but it's also a midpoint between two major Supreme Court decisions that dismantled what had been put in place in 1996 with a lesbian couple and a gay couple. From 2015 forward, the fight has been largely for gay marriage.

*D & R = Democrats & Republicans
 *RFMA= Respect for Marriage Act
 *Decr.= Decriminalize



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Netherlands
1st Gay
Marriage

Windsor vs
USA

Obergefell vs
Hodges


*D & R = Democrats & Republicans
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Edith Windsor & Thea Spyer

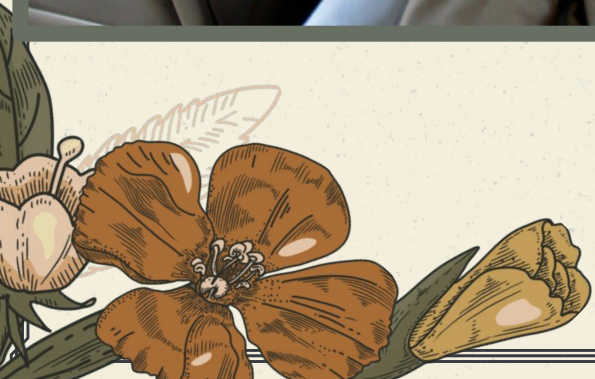


Jim Obergefell & John Arthur



I wanted to share this with you before but I couldn't. This is the wedding of Jim Obergefell and John Arthur shortly before John Arthur passed away.

Their state's failure to recognize their marriage was a catalyst in his involvement in the 2015 Supreme Court decision. So, that is the history of homosexual and lesbian rights from 1989-2015.



Without going into details I hope we can understand why the conservative right has become so vitriolic since then. (*filled with bitter criticism or malice*) This is not the only thing that has bruised them but it is a major one.

I want to go back into ancient history. We understand our immediate history but we need to put it into context. We won't really see the significance of this unless we go back and see what has existed before. But this is the part where I get nervous. So, when we wanted to understand Adventism where do we look?

To Protestantism

You have to understand the context and what is being imbibed or assimilated. When we look at the time period from May 2020 - present were going back to look at the history of Protestantism. I don't want to go to Protestantism today, I want to go to Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, Greece and Rome.

And this is where I get nervous because I know that some people have researched other histories like ancient Pagan Nations or even indigenous populations. I'm sure some of you may have come to your own thoughts and conclusions and my concern is that I could very easily in this series just end up disagreeing with absolutely everyone. I'm hoping that what I present today will makes logical sense.



I do fear that Media Literacy is still an issue that this Movement struggles with. And when you go back and look at history, it's not just the religious right that can manipulate history to suit themselves but the left can do the same as well. So, I'm going to go to three Pagan Nations.

Egypt, Greece and Rome. We're not going to go through them in that order but were going to start with Greece.

I have by far the most to say about Greece.



EGYPT



GREECE



ROME



“Greece is known for
some sex relationships”

As I said before, I hope not but I fear that I might end up disagreeing with everyone. When we look at history we need to find the best sources of information but we also can't just believe what suits us.

If we don't like it, that's not the issue because the facts remain. There's a number of difficulties in going back into this history and I want to begin with listing them all.



OBSTRUCTIONS:

Obstructions are things that are going to obstruct us as we look through history. The first one that we will be covering is a New Subject, externally.

We're going to be discussing sex and many people in this movement are still uncomfortable with this subject which I don't understand why.

Every Adventist believes that God has things to say about every aspect of our lives but the one decision that can have the most impact on our lives, we think he has nothing to say about it.



Or if he does, you prefer that it be written so that you can go somewhere private to read it.

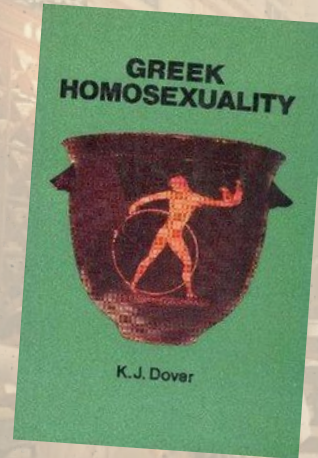
Everyone has heard Elder Parminder's series on relationships and you know that he has discussed this topic in great detail and many aspects of it. So, now it's my turn.

This is a disclaimer to begin with, we will be discussing relationships but in particular, sex.



As you might imagine, historical societies never want to talk about sex. Historical Societies would meet and talk about Ancient Greece but they would just pretend that sex was not part of it. That attitude did not change until the late 1970's.

I'm not saying this is a new subject for us but this is a new subject, externally. It's only been discussed in historical societies up until around 1978, when a book was published that was called Greek Homosexuality. It opened up discussion in mainstream societies.



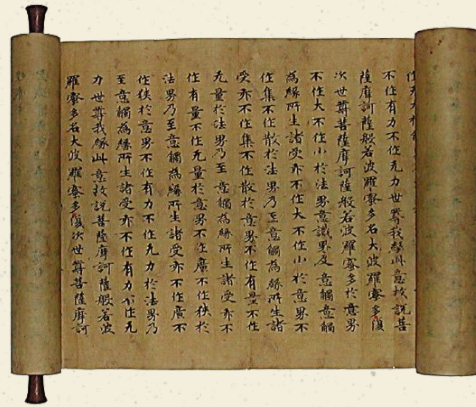
By the time you get to the 1980's they finally started to address this topic. As you might imagine everyone comes to this topic hoping to see what they want to see. Making arguments that fit their present day desires for what they want to see in present day society.

This is the difficulty of it being a new subject and a sensitive one at that. One of the reasons that I haven't shared many articles on the broadcast about this subject is because it's almost entirely impossible to find a source that isn't influenced with bias.

The issue is Foreign Language

When we try to understand an ancient civilization like Greece were dealing with an ancient language and then it all gets translated into Latin, which become even more difficult. When we go back to their language they had no word that was a replacement for our modern word "Homosexual."

First of all, he is not using the modern term for homosexual and second he could not be using their equivalent because they had none. So, there's an issue with the translation.



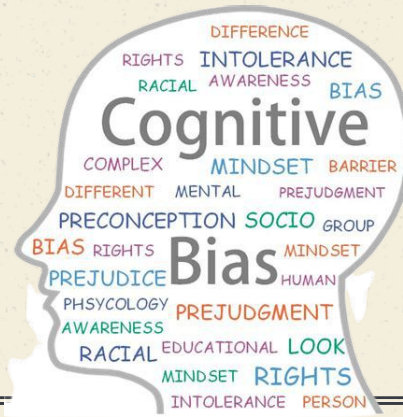
In other words, they had no equivalent. So, when we go to a liberal article and they quote Plato, and he says that homosexual relationships are a positive, you know that's not what he's saying in a modern day context.



The third issue is one I've already touched on which is Bias. Towards the end of Platos life he said that same sex relationships were essentially an abomination but then he changes his position over the course of his life.

So, bias becomes an issue. I will quote from one online source about The Sacred Band of Thebes. It says,

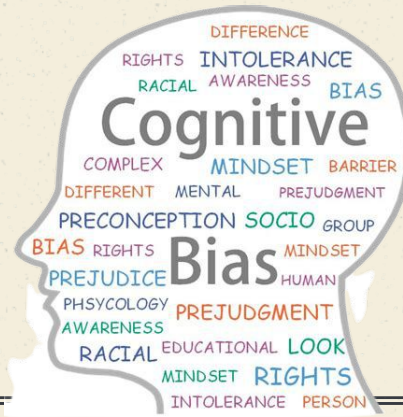
"3000 years ago in Ancient Greece, being gay or lesbian was not a crime. In fact in certain situations the Greeks even encouraged homosexual relationships."



It says, "3000 years ago in Ancient Greece, being gay or lesbian was not a crime. In fact "in certain situations" the Greeks even encouraged homosexual relationships."

That's just wrong!

We can't go into a confusing area of history and make it what we want it to be. Because that tiny phrase "in certain situations" is not big enough to fix how much they've twisted the history.



Most liberal sources will take their bias to Greek history as well as conservative ones

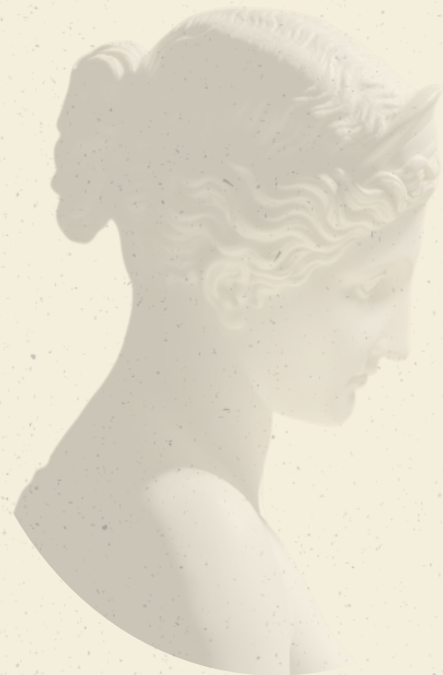
MALE PERSPECTIVE

The fourth issue is Male Perspective because it's all written from a male perspective. So, if you want to know what a woman's experience was or what a woman thought in ancient Greece or Rome, generally you're not going to find it.

When they see men describe or illustrate a woman's sexual experience, much like male directors of movies today, they don't end up illustrating a true female experience and you can see this, even in societies where their illustrating woman having sex.

Their disgusts are carved and illustrated by men and largely for men. One thing that people have trouble with is that a woman can have pleasure without being penetrated and they didn't like that fact either.

So, their sexism shows even in their art.



CONTRADICTIONS

The other issue is Contradictions. Any society has a variety of experiences and perspectives, less back then than now. But, I would suggest back then you belonged to the state. But if you look at society today some of the people who are the most famous do not represent the lives of normal society.



There's the danger of emphasizing one case and thinking that somehow it represents the general society. We're covering a time period of hundreds if not thousands of years, when you go from Mesopotamia Assyria to the end of Pagan Rome. All of them have famous legends or famous people that may look outside of the ordinary. What we want to see is the positions of their government and the General Society. In essence we don't want to focus on the famous or the wealthy or even the uncommon people of society because they don't reflect what's really going on in the General Society.



Marcela Gracia Ibeas and Elisa Sánchez Loriga

In 1901, two women in Spain got married and then fled the country. Their names were Marcela Gracia Ibeas & Elisa Sánchez Loriga.

There was something unusual about the fresh-faced groom that day

The priest at the San Jorge Church in A Coruña, north-western Spain, didn't see anything special, and the smattering of relatives in attendance weren't saying anything. But both 'Mario' and his bride, Marcela, were women.

It was 1901, and the union between Elisa and Marcela remains the only known same-sex marriage in the history of the Spanish Catholic Church.

But the couple's sweet victory over the conservative culture of early 20th Century Spain would be short-lived. They were to spend the rest of their lives on the run from persecution across two continents. These two are not representative of the General Society.

However, in Spain 1905,

The conservative faction of the Catholic Church reveres two women, Lucia and Mary to a much higher degree than that of a liberal. What is the experience of a normal conservative Catholic women compared to a liberal Catholic woman?

Do the conservatives who worship a female Goddess or Prophetess make them view ordinary women any better?

Just like Papal Rome and Pagan Rome. It doesnt matter if their society has Goddesses because it doesn't mean that women in their societies are treated any better. We have to watch out for contradictions and look to the General Society as much as possible.



Limitations of Presenting

The last difficulty is the Limitations of Presenting. This is a difficult format and it's similar to how difficult it was to teach parts of Protestantism. I ended up just stating things as fact, because these perspectives had either been obtained from many different sources or from the audio of a thirty hour book.

This subject is a much more difficult one than the history of Protestantism. Once I started to come to my position on this subject, I found that there were almost no sources that I could agree with, even 80%. In fact in my notes there's one source where I had one sentence because I couldn't bear any more than one sentence. I know that this is a subject that people have many different positions. When a secular author discusses this and then brings in the Bible, they make a terrible mess of it. So, I'll do my best.



We're in Ancient Greece and I want to begin by quoting Aristotle. He says,

"The female is as it were a deformed male"

"Male is formed, and the female is deformed"

"The relation of male to female is by nature a relation of superior to inferior"

"The male unless constituted in some respect contrary to nature is by nature more expert at leading than the female"

"The elder and complete, then the younger and incomplete"

Aristotle is known for his sexism but he's by no means alone. Some of their writers, philosophers, and poets had worse views and some like Plato had better views. But even Plato was still quite sexist. They see the male as vastly superior to the female and they say the reason is because of emotion, the intellect and especially the body. This is where we need to take ourselves from our modern day society, plant ourselves in Greek society and put our modern day brain to one side for the moment.





Muscle

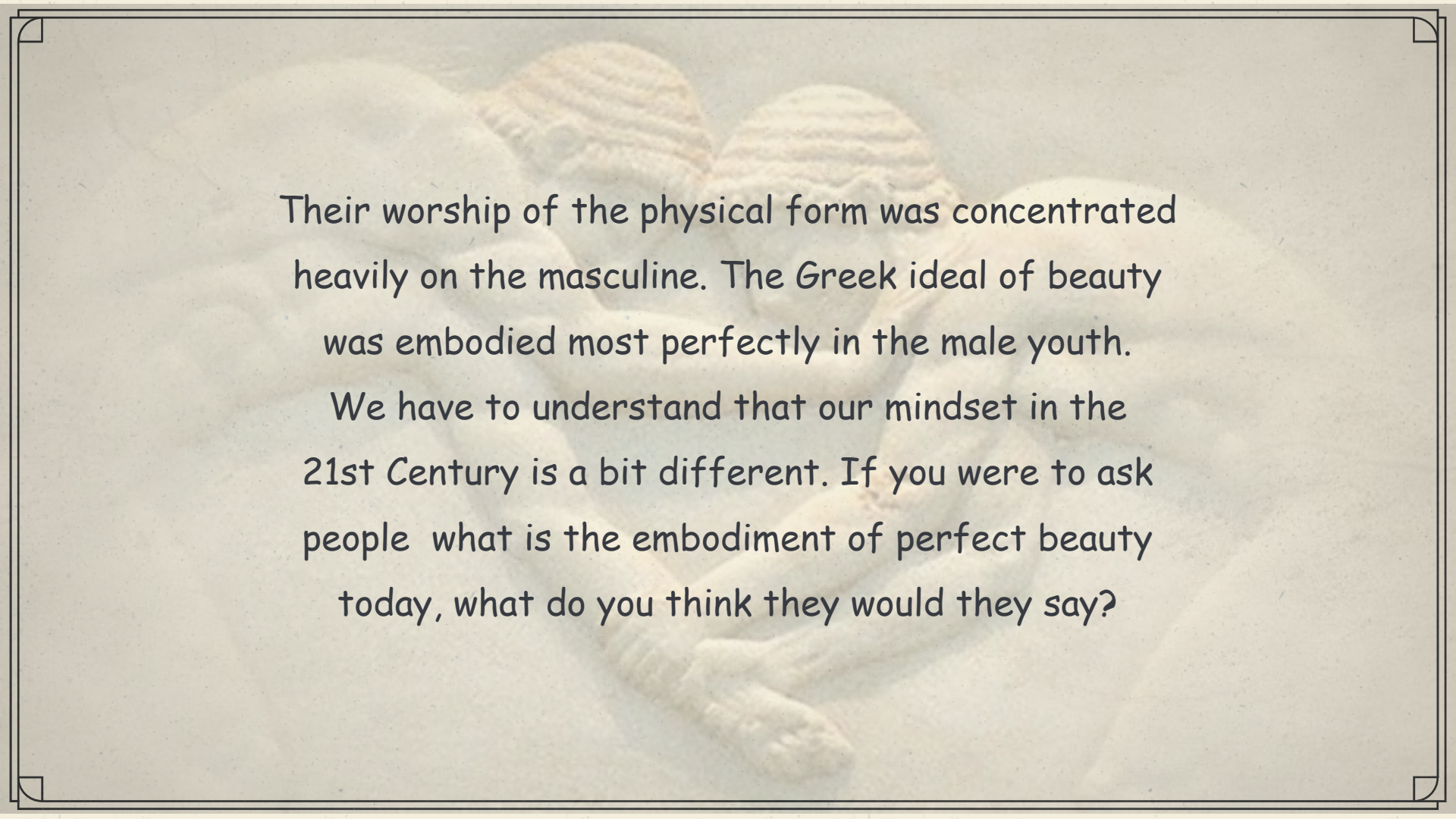
Power

Skill

This is a time of hot war and Olympic Games. Muscle, Power and Skill is embodied in the masculine. We could think of women being revered for being able to give birth to children but remember for many of them they didn't think that a woman contributed anything to the offspring. This is where the idea of a seed comes from. You plant your seed and everything is in that seed to become an oak because they see sperm as the seed.

In fact, when one man killed his mother, one of their poets argued that he couldn't be convicted of killing a blood relative because his mother never contributed to him. So, a mother could not be a blood relative because she was just the soil that grew the seed. There was at times a popular view that a woman's period was sperm but because she was deformed she couldn't keep sperm alive and it would exit out of her body through blood. So, you see there weren't any good views of women.



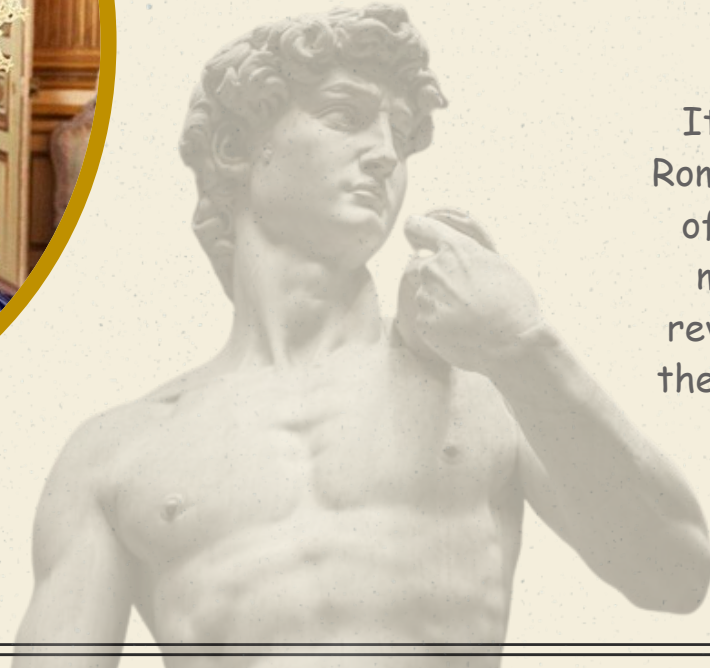


Their worship of the physical form was concentrated heavily on the masculine. The Greek ideal of beauty was embodied most perfectly in the male youth.

We have to understand that our mindset in the 21st Century is a bit different. If you were to ask people what is the embodiment of perfect beauty today, what do you think they would they say?



The accepted secular answer is Beyoncé. She's the queen because she embodies perfect beauty. But back then, true perfect beauty was masculine not feminine because of the construct of their whole Society and mindset.



It was similar for the Romans. The embodiment of perfection was the male youth and they revered that beauty. To them youth was between 13 to late 20's.



ERASTES

PEDERASTY

EROMENOS

How their society operated generally was with the practice of Pederasty. I'm quoting from *(Inquiriesjournal.com)*.

"The ideal Pederastic relationship in Ancient Greece involved an Erastes, an older male usually in his mid to late 20's and an Eromenos a younger male who was past puberty usually no older than 18."

So, we're discussing how society generally operated for the Greeks. They would develop relationships between an older male and a younger male. Before we subscribe to any morality we should first put ourselves back in their mindset.



ERASTES

PEDERASTY

EROMENOS

The Erastes is the Teacher and the Eromenos is the student. There was a form of sex that was involved but this was predominantly a teacher student relationship. The teacher is expected to take under his wing a young Greek male and teach him how to be a good Greek Warrior, a good Greek Politician and a good Greek Citizen.

The teacher is in his mid to late 20's and the student was just past puberty. I'll say anywhere from 13-18 or even 21. As soon as they could see his height or a beard developing he would no longer be looked at as a student but instead as an adult man.



They trace this social construct back to Crete. However, they believed it might have been around 700 BC. They came out of a Greek male dominated social culture which has delayed marriage for Aristocrats. They also have a common practice of having male conferences where they meet and discuss issues of the day.

In other words, it's the prevalence of the social exclusion of women. Both art and literary references show that the Eromenos was at least a teenager ranging between 13-20. In unusual cases the relationship could have lasted until 30. However, their most settled age range was between 15-17.



The Erastes teacher would see a young boy that he liked and he would start to pursue this young man by offering him gifts and praise. He had the responsibility of convincing the young boy and gaining his acceptance.

It was meant to be a mentorship program but there was also a sexual component to it and a relationship or friendship that could last for the rest of their lives.

I believe this is one of the reasons why people start to link what they would call homosexuality to pedophilia because when they look at this in modern terms they think its nothing more than pedophilia.



Eromenos

Erastes

I'm going to read another quote from
Inquiriesjournal.com

"The age range when boys entered into such relationships was equal without a Greek girl given in marriage, often to adult husbands many years there senior. Boys however, usually had to be courted and were free to choose their mate while marriages for girls were arranged for economic and political advantage at the discretion of father and suiter."

So, if you wanted to tie this (Eromenos) to pedophilia you would equally have to tie their heterosexual marriages to pedophilia. Except in heterosexual marriages the girls were generally not given a choice. I would suggest the link people draw between what they call homosexuality and pedophilia is a lie because it doesnt hold water.

Eromenos

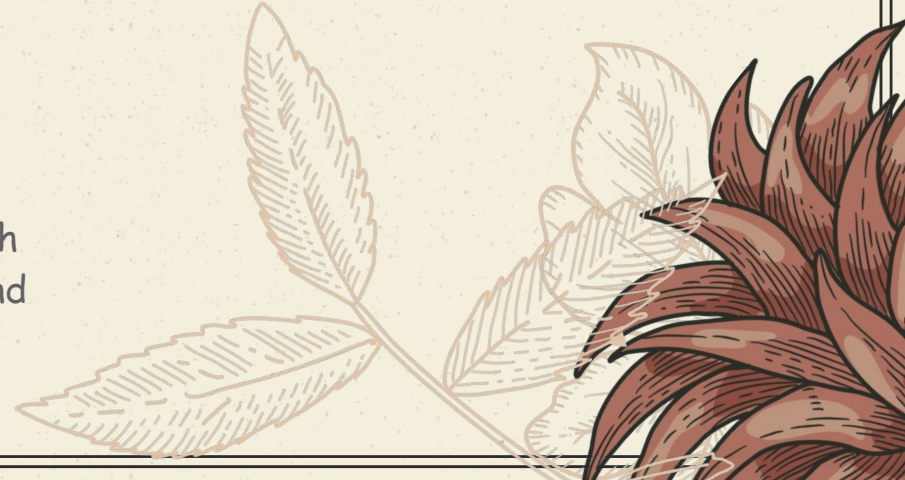
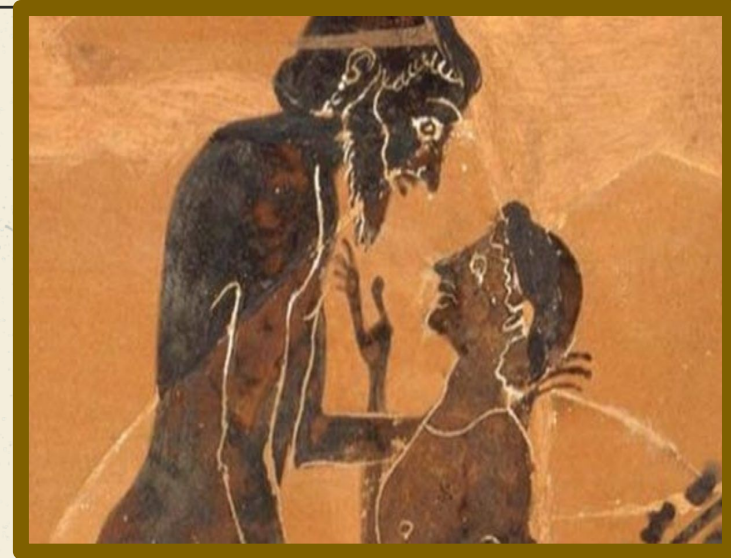


Erastes

Let's continue reading from [Inquiriesjournal.com](https://www.inquiriesjournal.com):
Examining Greek Pederastic Relationships

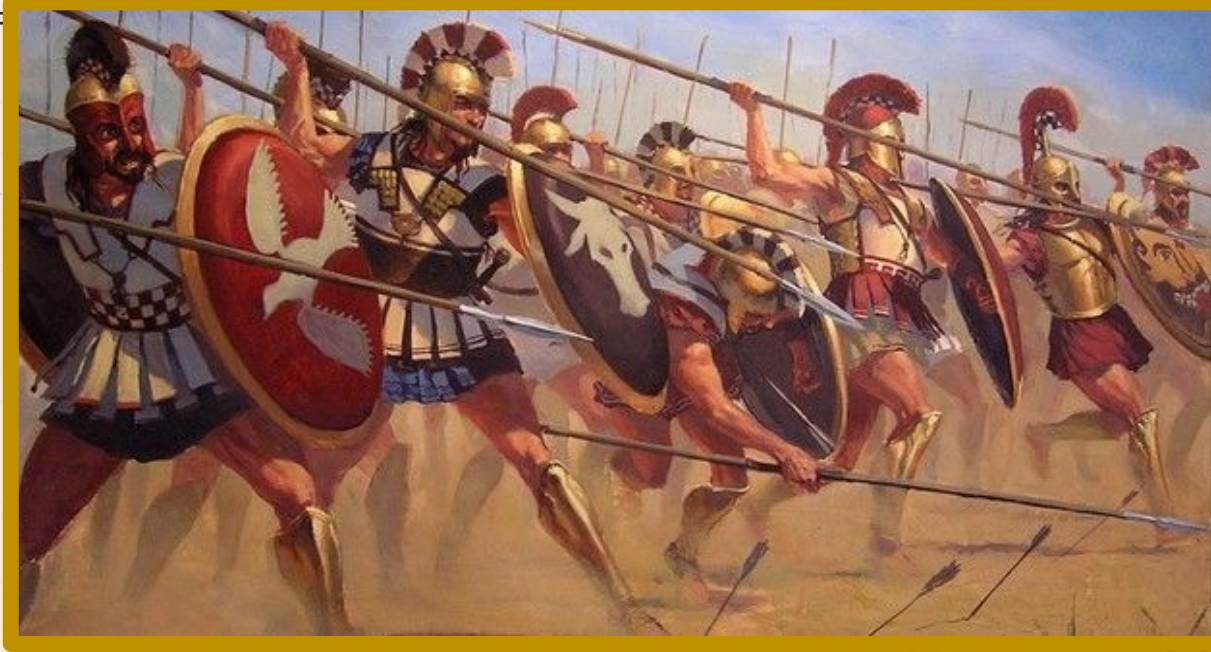
"The power dynamics involved in such a relationship with the Erastes always in control ensured that the Erastes kept his dignity as a fully functioning member of Greek society while the Eromenos grew up under the tutelage of such a man and as such could become a great citizen when he reached adulthood. Ideal pederastic couples were once who's relationships directly benefited their Greek society."

In other words the older would teach the younger about politics, military and society



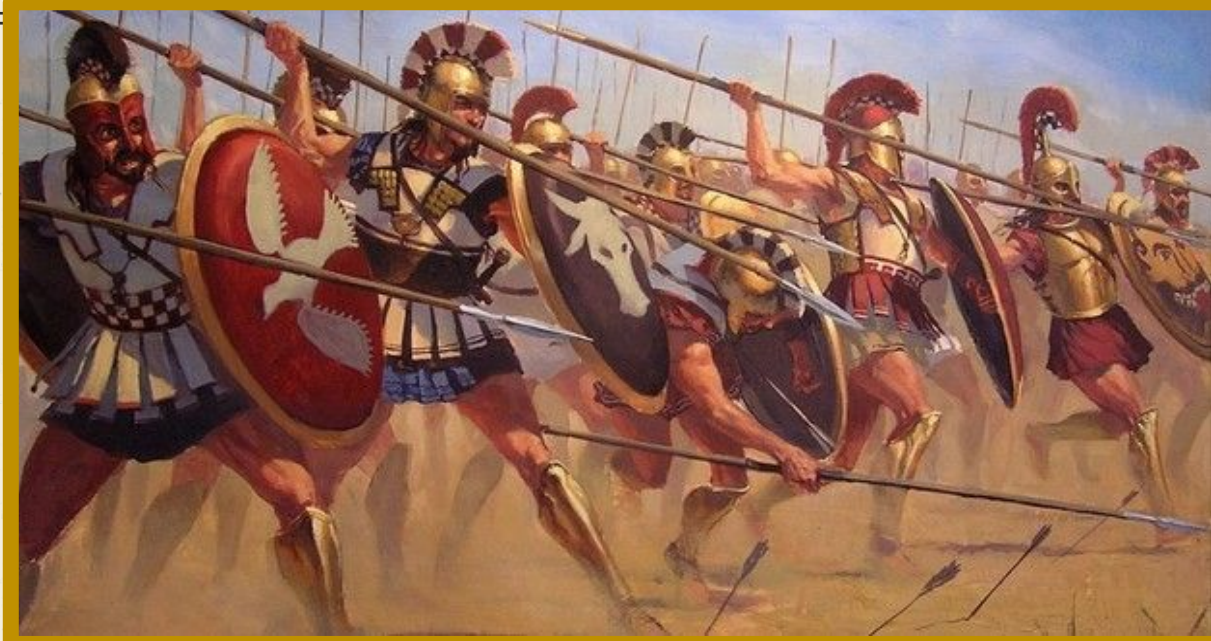
"The evidence for the ideal pederastic relationship being the most common in Greece is overwhelming."

However, we must remember the Contradictions, because there are specific cases that break that model. I'm sure you all know about The Sacred Band of Thebes.



The **Sacred Band of Thebes**, was a troop of select soldiers consisting of 150 pairs of male lovers which formed the elite force of the Theban Army in the 4th century BC, ending Spartan domination. Its predominance began with its crucial role in the Battle of Leuctra in 371 BC. It was annihilated by Philip II of Macedon (*Alexander the Great's Father*) in the Battle of Chaeronea in 338 BC.

So, the liberals would say look at that beautiful group of 150 gay couples. However, I would argue this is not today's Jim Obergefell and John Arthur because these couples could not be composed of equals. For every couple in the Sacred Band of Thebes one would have to be an older teacher and one would have to be a younger student.



They were likely closer in age than 13 and 30 because this student is fighting in a war. However, regardless of how that Band constructed their Army they had to have a hierarchical difference. There was a sexual relationship between Erastes and Eromenos. In the vast majority of cases there was a physical component.

Let's continue reading...

"The Ancient Greeks did not conceive of sexual orientation as a social identifier as modern western societies have done. Greek society did not distinguish sexual desire or behavior by the gender of the participants but rather by the role that each participant played in a sex act. That of an active penetrator or passive penetrated. This active passive polarization corresponded with dominant and submissive social roles. The active penetrative role was associated with masculinity, higher social status and adulthood while the passive role was associated with femininity, lower social status and youth. Given the importance of Greek society in cultivating the masculinity of the adult male and the perceived feminizing effect of being the passive partner, relations between adult men of comparable social status were considered highly problematic and usually associated with social stigma."

So, this is nothing like the homosexuality that we know of today

What they couldn't tolerate was a John Arthur and a Jim Obergefell because remember they worshipped masculinity. One of those men would have to be a female and what are women?

Nothing Good

This social stigma was only reserved for the passive partner in the relationship. If you had two equal males and they had sex both of them do not receive the stigma of Society. The person who was the dominant party or the penetrator still retained all of his masculinity and society does not condemn him.



They are fine with the dominant partner because sex for them is not attached to the gender of the participants. However, they have gendered the act. They would look at a male penetrating or being dominant to another male as fine, just as masculine. The stigma is reserved for anyone approaching the female characteristics.

"According to contemporary opinion, Greek males who engaged in passive anal sex after reaching the age of manhood at which point they expected to take the reverse role in Pederastic relationships and become the active and dominant member there by were feminized or made a woman of themselves. There is ample evidence in the theatre of Aristophanes that derides these passive men and gives a glimpse of the type of biting, social opprobrium and shame heaped upon them by these societies."

Liberals look back at Greek society and try to draw out examples of a society that tolerated same-sex relationships. Conservatives look back at Greek societies and try to link Pedophilia to Pederasty, and I would argue that both are wrong. These men were ridiculed if they stayed in an ongoing equal sexual relationship because they were looked at as women and that was not a good thing.




I would argue that Greek society did not tolerate same sex relationships among equals especially if your a typical middle to upper class ranked Greek male. It first starts at Pre-Puberty or the life of a child. If you are a puberty male around the age of 13, you become a student of a Greek adult male who would train you.


Pre-puberty	:	13 and forward	:	18-21	:	21-30	:	30
Life of a Child	:	Courted - Eromenos	:	End of relationship	:	Becomes Erastes	:	Marry a girl of 13-16
	:		:		:		:	
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You'll be courted by him, you may have a number of suitors and you will end up choosing one. There is evidence that the fathers of these boys would hope that they were really pretty and handsome so that they would attract a better teacher. Then they would become an Eromenos.

This was mostly an educational relationship and it was supposed to be restrained. However, there still existed a sexual relationship. Around 18-21 you reach adulthood and then this relationship has to end. You cannot stay in a physical relationship with your teacher because now you're an adult and he's an adult so now you're both equal. To continue any physical relationship would mean that one of them would be seen as feminized.




Pre-puberty	13 and forward	18-21	21-30	30
Life of a Child	Courted - Eromenos	End of relationship	Becomes Erastes	Marry a Girl of 13-16




Also, the education stops and so does the physical relationship. From roughly 21-30, he then becomes an Erastes and finds another young boy, has a physical relationship with him and trains him into adulthood. Then that relationship has to end. At around 30, he then marries a girl of around 13-16. She is not generally given much of a choice.

The point I'm making, is if you want to see the significance of what Society began to accept in 1989, it's not like they finally looked back at that good Greek Civilization and learned something.



Pre-puberty	13 and forward	18-21	21-30	30
Life of a Child	Courted - Eromenos	End of relationship	Becomes Erastes	Marry a Girl of 13-16



Because if John Arthur met Jim Obergefell in a bar, that relationship would have been no more tolerated in Greece than that of our Conservative American Society today because this is not a Homosexual or Gay relationship.



Dear Lord, we know how complicated history can become but as we look back at the context, we look back and see what you have observed and what existed around Ancient Israel, and we pray that we will have a true perspective. That you might guide us into unity in this movement. We pray this in Jesus name, Amen.