

# LESBIAN QUESTIONS...

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What is involved in loving another woman?

The ability to love a "person"—and if that person *happens* to be a woman, the ability to overcome a lifetime of heterosexual conditioning.



Why is the word "Lesbian" so feared?

Fear of the term "Lesbian" is actually fear of male rejection. Our male-controlled society punishes any woman who dares deviate from the male concept of what a woman should be—dependent and submissive. Since it is through men that women gain economic and social security, to incur the wrath of men is no small matter. Thus, the label "Lesbian" has been misused to scare women back into "place." It is cast by men against any woman who dares to be their equal and who asserts the primacy of her own needs.



How do you know when a woman is a Lesbian?

You don't unless she tells you. Our sexist society frequently prevents a Lesbian from revealing herself to you, although she may want to. Like all women, Lesbians come in all shapes and sizes, and their sexuality is as indistinguishable as anyone else's.



Do Lesbians play roles, one being the "man" and one the "woman"?

Since our sexist society defines what is "masculine" and what is "feminine", few of us, heterosexual or homosexual, fit the molds. Younger women are more aware of the ludicrousness of sex roles, both between men and women and between women and women, and they refuse to play. Besides, Lesbians are women who are attracted to women—they are not looking for a male substitute.



What is a Lesbian?

Basically a Lesbian is a woman whose primary psychological, emotional, social and sexual interests are directed toward other women. Moreover, she is a woman who has refused to accept the limitations and oppressions laid on her by society in the "female role."



Who are Lesbians?

They are all women. Your daughter, your sister, even your mother. The Lesbian comes from all social classes, every economic level, every educational level, every racial and ethnic group. She is married, single, in every type of work, in every part of the world. There are 11 million Lesbians in this country—roughly one out of every 10 women.



What is the main difference between loving another woman and a relationship with a man?

The absence of role playing. Loving another woman brings two equal people together. A woman can be strong and not feel "less womanly". There exists a mutual, unqualified support for daring to try new things. In most instances, this equal friendship is missing from man-woman relationships.



Are Lesbians preoccupied with sex?

No. Lesbianism is a total lifestyle, not just sexual activity. The relationships are entered into for love and maintained out of compatibility and mutual support.



Do Lesbian mothers want their children to grow up to be homosexuals?

Lesbian mothers—like all mothers—want their children to have happy, enriching and fulfilling lives. Whether a child becomes a homosexual has little to do with the sexuality of his parents. All homosexuals are born out of heterosexual relationships.



How do women make love?

With the publication of *Masters and Johnson's* studies, it is now widely known that a penis is not necessary for a woman's sexual gratification. As pointed out in *The Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm*, the clitoris is the location of the greatest sexual pleasure for women. Thus, sexual gratification for a woman is obtainable from either man or woman—and two women do very much the same thing that any two people do. The ways of love making—heterosexual or homosexual—are limited only by the imagination.



Do Lesbians molest little girls and seduce young women?

Most Lesbians seek relationships with women in their own age bracket. They do not put a premium on youth, as do many male homosexuals, but prefer partners with whom they have something in common.



Are there Lesbians in N.O.W. and are they accepted?

Lesbians make up about 10 percent of the total N.O.W. membership—much the same proportion as in the general population. They enter N.O.W. for the same reasons heterosexual women do—seeking equality as women within society. Because they are a minority within N.O.W., they share the same problems all minorities share: their lifestyle is not clearly understood. N.O.W. has recognized this problem and has established a National Task Force on Sexuality and Lesbianism. Many local chapters have done the same.



What is meant by “political Lesbian”?

Many women—although not sexually attracted to any one woman—have chosen to give their total commitment, love and emotional support to *women*. This decision has come from the realization that women must develop an identity as women, not merely in relation to men. To do so, their energies must flow toward each other, not backward into trying to change men. Only in this way may they develop a new consciousness of themselves.



Are Lesbians born that way?

No. Lesbianism begins when women—at any age—find other women more fulfilling to be with than men. The old heredity versus environment is irrelevant to Lesbianism.



What books can I read about Lesbianism?

*Sappho Was A Right-On Woman* by Sidney Abbott and Barbara Love; *Lesbian Woman* by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon; sections of *Radical Feminism*.



Is it true that most women Phys. Ed. teachers are Lesbians?

There is no data available, other than in fiction.



Why is so little known and written about Lesbianism?

The lack of research and scientific knowledge is partly due to the fact that the Lesbian has learned to “cover up” for her own protection; because most researchers are men who do not take the female homosexual seriously; and because women researchers are not likely to go into this area lest they become suspect.



Don't women become Lesbians because they couldn't get a man?

No. Women become Lesbians because they *choose* to relate to women.