Tommy and Jim are sexually attracted to each other. There are many good reasons for Tommy and Jim to have sex: a sexual relationship unites people, provides interpersonal fulfillment, etc. These are the reasons which lead heterosexual couples have sex even when they don’t plan on having children, or are past the child-bearing age. So if it is to be immoral, there must be some countervailing reason for Tommy and Jim to not have sex. What could that reason be?

1) Homosexuality is unusual.
   – Corvino: Yes, but so is reading sanskrit. Yet no one suggests that reading sanskrit is immoral. So being unusual isn’t sufficient for being immoral.

2) Homosexuality is not practiced by other animals.
   – Corvino: this isn’t true. But, even if it were, that wouldn’t show that we shouldn’t practice homosexuality. Animals don’t wear clothes, brush their teeth, or undergo surgery. But that doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t do those things. We shouldn’t take our cues about how to live from animals.

• Homosexuality is a choice which opposes innate desires.
   – Corvino: Many opponents of homosexuality have argued as follows:

   \[
   \begin{align*}
   \text{P1} & \quad \text{Homosexuality is a lifestyle choice.} \\
   \text{C} & \quad \text{Homosexuality is immoral.}
   \end{align*}
   \]

   While many defenders of homosexuality have argued as follows:

   \[
   \begin{align*}
   \text{P1} & \quad \text{Homosexual desires are innate.} \\
   \text{C} & \quad \text{Homosexuality is moral.}
   \end{align*}
   \]

   However, neither of these arguments is good.

   – Whether homosexual desires are innate or not is simply besides the point. There are many innate desires which should not be acted upon, like innate tendencies towards violence. And there are many desires which are not innate, and still perfectly moral to act upon. For instance, I have an inclination to write with my right hand, but that doesn’t mean that choosing to write with the left hand would be immoral. So innateness of desire is not sufficient for immorality.
3) Homosexuality violates the natural function of the sexual organ.
   – Corvino: many body parts can be used in multiple ways, often in ways that deviate from their natural function. The natural function of the nose is not to hold up glasses, but it isn’t immoral to use them for that purpose. So why should it be immoral to use body parts in order to express love, give and receive pleasure, and enhance a relationship, even if, in so doing, you’re not using the body part according to its natural function?

4) Homosexuality is disgusting.
   – Corvino: there are many disgusting activities that are not immoral: eating snails, performing autopsies, and cleaning toilets, for example. So being disgusting is not sufficient for being immoral.

5) Homosexuality is harmful: it leads to depression and suicide.
   – Corvino: even if we grant the statistical evidence that depression and suicide are higher amongst homosexuals, this doesn’t show that homosexual activity causes people to be depressed or suicidal. It could instead be that society’s poor treatment of homosexuals causes them to be depressed and suicidal.

6) Homosexuality is harmful: it exposes you to a greater risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.
   – Corvino: it’s true that homosexuals have a higher prevalence of HIV than the general population. But that doesn’t give Tommy a reason to not have sex with Jim, since Jim is HIV-negative. Tommy’s chances of contracting HIV are higher with a random woman than with Jim.
   – If this argument is a good one:

   \[ P_1 \text{ Having sex with men, as opposed to women, raises your chances of contracting HIV/AIDS.} \]

   Then it should apply just as well to women as to men. HIV/AIDS rates are lowest amongst lesbians. But it isn’t immoral for heterosexual women to sleep with men. So increasing your risk of HIV/AIDS isn’t sufficient for being immoral.

7) Homosexuality is harmful: homosexual relationships are less rewarding than heterosexual relationships.
   – Tommy and Jim simply aren’t sexually attracted to women. For them, the choice is not one between sex with men and sex with women. For them, the choice is between sex with men and celibacy. And even if homosexual relationships are less rewarding than heterosexual relationships, they are more rewarding than celibacy.
8) Homosexuality is harmful: it harms children by making it more likely that they will become homosexual.

   – Corvino: this argument is circular. You cannot show that $X$-ing is bad by showing that it might lead to other people $X$-ing. Leading to other people $X$-ing is only bad if $X$-ing is bad.
   – In any case, there is no evidence that exposure to homosexuality causes children to become homosexual themselves.

9) Homosexuality is harmful: it harms society by diminishing the rate of procreation.

   – Corvino: so does celibacy, but nobody seems to think that being a priest is immoral. So diminishing the rate of procreation isn’t sufficient for being immoral.