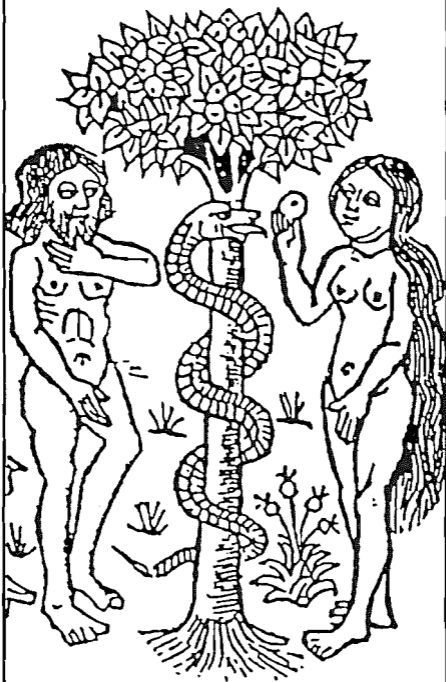


WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY?



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We live in a time of increasing acceptance and approval of homosexuality. Homosexuality is portrayed by many in government, in public education and in our colleges and universities as just one of many normal, legitimate lifestyle choices. Those who oppose the homosexual lifestyle on moral and religious grounds are usually portrayed by the intellectual elite, the media and

the entertainment industry as ignorant bigots who are full of hatred, "homophobic" and so on.

It is true that some people hate homosexuals. Some young men even engage in "gay bashing". But people who engage in such activities are sinning against God. Such people are not at all living in accordance with the law of Christ. The true Christian loves the homosexual by treating him lawfully (cf. 1 John 5:3). Slander, violence, hatred, and scorn should never be the attitude of a Christian toward the homosexual. Christians should protect homosexuals from personal attack. Yet, while the Christian should love the homosexual by treating him lawfully, he must also love him by being biblically honest with him. Our attitude toward homosexuality must not be shaped by our changing pagan culture but by God's inspired, infallible revelation the Bible. The Bible offers hope to the homosexual because it speaks the truth and because it proclaims the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ.

The Creation Ordinance of Marriage

In order to have a proper understanding of homosexuality we must go back to the beginning of mankind. In the beginning God created **one man -Adam and one woman -Eve**. God did not create two men (Adam and Bob) and God did not create two women (eg. Eve and Susan). God created Adam first from the dust of ground. God then created Eve from Adam's rib. She was created to be Adam's wife. The Bible says they were naked yet they were not ashamed. God's creation of one - man and one - woman to be husband and wife is the pattern or paradigm for God sanctioned, normal, moral, blessed sexual relations. "The marriage union is ordained, and its sacred precincts must not be polluted by the intrusion of a third party, of either sex" (F.F. Bruce).

Jesus Christ quoted Genesis 2:24 as clear proof that polygamy (having more than one wife) and divorce (except in the case of adultery) are condemned by God. The apostle Paul writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit says that there is only one moral, legitimate outlet for sexual temptation, marriage (cf. 1 Cor. 7:2). Monogamous heterosexual marriage is the only way to have sex without sin and guilt. "Marriage is honorable in all, and the [marriage] bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). Anything contrary to the creation ordinance of marriage between one man and one woman is unacceptable before God and sinful. The Bible condemns all sexual activity outside of monogamous heterosexual marriage: homosexuality, premarital sex, polygamy, adultery, bestiality and so on. **"Let no man deceive you with empty words"**, says Paul; **"for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience"** (Eph. 5:6).

The Law Of God

God's moral law clearly condemns homosexuality of any kind. **"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death their blood guiltiness is upon them"** (Lev. 18:22, see also Lev 20:13).

Apologists for homosexuality try to circumvent the clear, unambiguous statements of God's law with blatant scripture twisting and excuse making arguments.

Some argue that the law of God does condemn homosexuality. But they teach that God's law is just a human record of ancient Jewish custom and prejudice. These people have denied the divine authorship of the law and are ethical relativists. Their argument must be rejected because Jesus Christ and the Apostles accepted the divine authorship, infallibility, and absolute authority of the Old Testament (cf. Matt. 22:39,40; Jn. 10:35, 11 Tim. 3:16,17). If you reject God's law by saying it is only the purely human ideas of ancient Jewry then you cannot claim Christ as your savior. You must believe that either Jesus was mistaken in his view of God's law or that Jesus was a liar. Be forewarned: Jesus Christ is God (cf. Jn. 1:1; 8:58,59). Jesus Christ cannot be mistaken or lie (cf. Ns. 23:19).

Others teach that the laws condemning homosexuality were meant only for the nation of Israel. The Old Testament laws passed away with the coming of Jesus Christ. This view is popular among those who claim to be "evangelical homosexuals." This view is totally unbiblical. When the New testament says that Christians are dead to the law it means that Christ has fulfilled the law (the covenant of works) for the believer, and that Christ has removed the curse of the law through his sacrificial death. Christians who are united to Jesus Christ in his perfect sinless life and his sacrificial death are raised with Christ and enabled by his Spirit to live unto God. Paul says that **"the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just, and good"** (Rom. 7:12). Christ did not get rid of the moral law. He obeyed it perfectly for the believer. He died to remove the guilt of sin and he sends the Holy Spirit so believers have the power to obey God's law. If Christ did away with the law in the sense that homosexual apologists assert then there would be no need for Him to die, for if there is no law there is no sin and guilt. The only laws which are no longer binding are laws specifically tied to the land of Israel (eg. jubilee) and the ceremonial laws. The ceremonial laws pointed to Jesus Christ and his work through types and figures. God's moral law and the civil case laws based on the moral law are still in force. God's law is based on His nature and character. Therefore it is absolute, unchanging and eternal.

It is obvious that the prohibitions against homosexuality have nothing to do with the sacrificial system. They clearly are not ceremonial in nature. Furthermore, if the laws against homosexuality were only meant for the nation of Israel, then why is homosexuality condemned in Sodom over four hundred years before the nation of Israel existed? **"Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication [sexual immorality], and going after strange flesh [homosexuality], are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire"** (Jude 1:7). Although general wickedness characterized Sodom, Genesis 19 presents homosexuality

as the last straw in debauchery. The men of Sodom desired homosexual relations with Lot's guests and were willing to rape them if necessary. God wrought total destruction upon Sodom. Sodom was not destroyed because the inhabitants were inhospitable, as some claim. Just being inhospitable would not explain such a total judgment by God. God utterly destroyed the city. Only Lot and his family were spared.

Some homosexual apologists argue that God's law only condemns male cultic prostitution. They argue that modern homosexuality has nothing to do with the idolatrous pagan homosexuality practiced in ancient times. God does clearly condemn male prostitution and the cultic fertility rites associated with it. Deuteronomy 23:17-18 does apply to cultic prostitution. But Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 do not mention cultic prostitution at all. **"If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their blood guiltiness is upon them"** (Lev 20:13).

The attempt to collapse all the prohibitions against homosexuality into only one which deals with ancient cultic prostitution reveals an obvious pro-homosexual bias by these interpreters. They are forcing the biblical text into a pro-homosexual mold. They are being dishonest with the clear intent of God's word. They are reading their own pro-homosexual presuppositions into God's law. It is illegitimate to collapse three distinct prohibitions into one. They know this, but they do not care because they are not interested in the truth. They are only interested in justifying their wicked, perverted behavior. Furthermore, their interpretation could be used to justify having sexual intercourse with sheep and goats because bestiality was also part of ancient cultic fertility rites. Don't be deceived. God is against homosexuality in all its forms both cultic as well as personal.

The arguments in favor of homosexuality are nothing more than pitiful excuses for a behavior that God hates. That God will clearly judge. **"Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders... will inherit the kingdom of God"** (1Cor. 6:9-10). Homosexuality was condemned by God centuries before the giving of the law (eg. Gen. 19). It is explicitly condemned by God's law (eg. Lev. 18:22; 20:13). And as we shall see it is also clearly condemned in the New Testament by the apostle Paul.

The New Testament

The New Testament agrees with and confirms the Old Testament's condemnation of homosexuality. Could any passage of scripture be more clear in its condemnation of homosexuality than Paul's statement found in Romans 1:24-32? **"Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God**

gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire towards one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper...and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them" (Rom. 1:24-28,32).

Apologists for homosexual behavior try to circumvent Romans one by claiming that Paul was only condemning homosexual lust and promiscuity not monogamous loving homosexual relations. The problem with this pro-homosexual interpretation is that Paul doesn't even hint at such an idea in the text. This idea has to be read into the text because it is clearly not there. Paul was an expert with intricate ethical problems. Paul's condemnation covers all forms of homosexual behavior: monogamous, promiscuous and otherwise. If homosexuality is allowable under certain conditions then are lying, murder, slander, and other sins listed by Paul also allowable under certain conditions? Would homosexual apologists also argue that sex with goats and sheep is permitted if the relationship is loving and monogamous?

Other apologists say that Paul was only referring to Greek cultic prostitution. But the text says nothing about Greek cultic prostitution. Paul was focusing on what happens when people push God out of all their thoughts and worship idols. Paul was discussing personal moral behavior. When people abandon God their personal behavior becomes perverse. If Paul only condemned Greek cultic prostitution then why did the early church condemn all forms of homosexuality? Why is it that every branch of the Christian church and every Christian denomination has condemned every form of homosexuality for nearly two thousand years? It has only been since the 1970's that homosexuality has received some acceptance. It is no accident that the churches which have begun to change their views are also the same denominations which reject the divine inspiration of the Bible. If Christ and the Apostles accepted monogamous homosexuality then why do we find, it universally condemned in the apostolic church?

The Pederasty Theory

The most clever attempt to repudiate Paul's condemnation of homosexuality is the pederasty theory. This view states that Paul, following Greek culture, was only condemning the sexual and emotional exploitation of young boys by men. This view assumes that Paul was only a product of his time, of pagan Greek culture. But the Bible clearly teaches that Paul wrote under the supernatural direction of the Holy Spirit (cf. 2 Pet. 3:15-16). To understand Paul's world view we should not look

to pagan Greece or Rome but to the Old Testament, the teachings of Jesus Christ and the other apostles. Paul's condemnation of homosexuality is fully consistent with, and a continuation of God's law revealed to Moses. Pederasty is wrong and is condemned by God because it is a form, or subset of homosexuality. It is also sinful and evil because it is a form of sex outside of the marriage (male and female) relationship. Homosexuality is wicked no matter what the age of the participants. The idea that once two males reach the age of 18 that then God approves of them having oral and anal sex is absurd. Paul condemned such wicked, foolish thinking long ago. **"The law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers of mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching"** (1Tim. 1:8-10).

Act and Orientation

There can be no discussion of homosexuality without addressing act and orientation. Many homosexuals will say, "I was born a homosexual. God made me this way. Therefore my thoughts, desires, and lifestyle should not be condemned." If some people are born with a predisposition toward homosexual behavior does that somehow make their homosexual lusts and behavior acceptable to God? According to the Bible - absolutely not!

The biblical doctrine of original sin teaches that all men are born with a sinful nature, a sinful disposition. Adam, the first man, was the covenant head and representative of the whole human race before God. When Adam sinned the guilt and pollution of sin passed to the whole human race (cf. Rom. 5:12,17,19). Everyone born (except Jesus Christ who was conceived by the Holy Spirit) is born with a sinful nature. Therefore it is wrong to say, "God made me a homosexual, or a liar, or a murderer," because sin did not originate with God but with man (i.e. Adam).

The fact that all human beings are born with an orientation or proclivity toward sin does not excuse sinful lusts or behavior. The Bible says that all men are born liars (cf. Ps. 58:3). Yet the Bible also says that lying is a sin (cf. Ex. 20:16, Deu. 5:20). The Bible says that liars will not enter the kingdom of God (cf. Rev. 21:27). If some people are born with a proclivity toward theft, homosexuality, murder, beastiality, sadomasochism, mutilation etc., that does not somehow excuse their sinful behavior. The argument that orientation towards homosexuality somehow makes it acceptable to God could be used to excuse all sinful behavior. Such an argument destroys personal responsibility. It renders God's law meaningless and salvation through Jesus Christ unnecessary. All men will be held responsible before God for every sinful thought, word, and deed regardless of one's orientation. Blaming God for one's sinful behavior may

make the homosexual feel better. But it will be ineffective on the day of judgment when all unrepentant homosexuals are cast into hell (cf. 1Cor. 6:9-10; Rev. 21:27). Furthermore the Bible teaches that we cannot blame God for our sinful behavior because God doesn't tempt man. Man is drawn away by his own lust. **"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death'"** (Ja. 1:13-15).

Some argue that homosexual acts are indeed immoral but homosexual feelings and desires for some are inborn and therefore unavoidable and not sinful. The Bible does teach that it is not a sin to be tempted. Jesus Christ was tempted yet He never committed sin (cf. Heb. 2:18). What is sinful is when a person dwells upon that which tempts him, fantasizes and makes plans to engage in that sinful behavior. The Bible clearly teaches that it is not only a sin to commit evil acts, it is also sinful to have immoral desires, lusts and thoughts.

Jesus Christ forbid heterosexual lust in Matthew 5:27-29. Jesus said that when a man looks upon a woman to lust after her, he has committed adultery with her in his heart (cf. Matt. 5:28). The idea of condemning only the outward act but not the inward lust was a doctrine of the Pharisees. Jesus Christ strongly condemned such false teaching (cf. Matt. 5:21, 22; 15:19, 20). The apostle Paul in Colossians 3 forbade ungodly fantasies, lusts, and evil desires. Paul says that Christians must sanctify (i.e. make holy) their very thoughts (cf. Ph. 4:8). James says that if desires are not controlled sin will follow (cf. Js. 4:1). Inward homosexual lust is condemned in Romans 1:24, 26, 27. The prophet Isaiah says that repentance must extend to one's "way" as well as one's "thoughts." Since the Bible condemns sinful lusts and sinful acts there can be no such thing as a Christian homosexual, or a Christian murderer, or a Christian thief. If a homosexual becomes a Christian he must put away both homosexual acts and thoughts. Therefore when he becomes a Christian he ceases to be a homosexual. He may still be tempted at times but he refuses to dwell on, fantasize about, and commit such abominable deeds. **"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things"** (Phil. 4:8). **"We should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted"** (1Cor. 10:6).

Conclusion

The Bible's condemnation of homosexuality is very clear and very strong. God says that homosexuality is an "abomination". That means that God hates, abhors and thoroughly detests homosexual behavior. The Old Testament says that people caught engaging in homosexual behavior should be put to death (cf. Lev.

18:22; 20:13). The apostle Paul says that homosexual behavior is **"worthy of death"** (Rom. 1:32). This is not the opinion of man but the clear teaching of the word of God.

The people who claim to be compassionate toward homosexuals by excusing and approving of their perverse behavior are liars and false teachers. Their attempts at reinterpreting the Bible as accepting of homosexuality are nothing more than pitiful excuses made for those who do not want to repent. They are leading homosexuals down the broad path which leads to destruction (cf. Matt. 7:13). They are the true enemies of the homosexual community.

The only hope for you is to accept what God says regarding your sinful behavior. You must first believe that your behavior is wrong, wicked and deserving of judgment if you are going to believe in Jesus Christ and repent of your sins. After Paul says that homosexuals are excluded from God's kingdom he says, **"and such were some of you; but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of God"** (1 Cor. 6:11). There were Christians at Corinth who rejected their former homosexual lifestyle. They repented and believed in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ as he is presented in the scriptures is your only hope of salvation. **"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved"** (Acts 4:12). If you believe in him all your sins will be forgiven. **"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as LORD, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed'"** (Rom. 10:9-11).

Jesus Christ's sinless blood removes the guilt and curse of sin. Christ's sinless perfect life is given as a gift to those who believe in him. When Christians appear before God on the day of judgment they are clothed with Christ's perfect righteousness. Believers go to heaven solely because of the merits of Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day it proved that his sacrifice was acceptable to the Father. Christ rose victorious over sin, guilt, death, and hell for everyone who places their trust in him. After his resurrection Christ as the divine-human mediator was made King and Lord over everything in heaven and on earth. **"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord"** (Acts 3:19).

If you would like to discuss the contents of this tract or are interested in attending a Bible study please give me a call or write the address given below.