

What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality

by Heath Rogers

Who would have thought that the subject of homosexuality would have become such a controversial subject *within* the "Christian" community? There was a time when the Bible's plain teaching on this subject was understood, accepted, and supported almost universally by everyone who called himself a Christian, but that time is gone. Today we see entire denominations threatening to divide over this subject. Some churches proudly recognize homosexuals as members and even ordain them within the ranks of their clergy. Sadly, many misled individuals twist the Scriptures in an effort to accept, justify or defend their homosexual friends or family members. In an age of increasing uncertainty on such an emotional subject, let us take a brief moment to look at what the Bible really has to say about the sin of homosexuality.

1. Condemned As Sinful Behavior.

"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination" (Lev. 18:22).

"If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death..." (Lev. 20:13).

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **homosexuals**, nor **sodomites**, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

The Bible *nowhere* affirms, sanctions, endorses, approves or even ignores the practice of homosexuality. It is repeatedly, specifically and clearly condemned as an abomination. God never calls it an "alternate lifestyle."

2. Violates God's Law For Marriage and Sexuality. "And He answered and said to them, 'Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning "made them male and female," and said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"'"? (Matt. 19:4-5). Same-sex marriages are contrary to God's Word. Marriage was created for a *man* and a *woman*. Sexual desires are to be satisfied in the marriage bed (Heb. 13:4). A homosexual relationship is a *sexual* relationship. *Any* sexual relationship outside of (or prior to) marriage is a sin.

3. Against Nature. "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due" (Rom. 1:26-27). Homosexuality is a "shameful" pursuit, fueled by "vile passions," which goes "against nature." A basic course in anatomy tells us that a man is suited for a woman and a woman is suited for a man. Plumbers and electricians know that they can not put two male (or female) parts together. Animals naturally know who they can and can not mate with. Sadly (shamefully), we find that it is mankind who pursues that which is against nature.

4. Brings Depravity and Destruction. Notice the result of practicing homosexuality: "receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due" (Rom. 1:27). When one misuses a product in a way that the manufacturer did not intend, that product will not work properly. It will be damaged. Homosexuals misuse their bodies in ways God did not intend for them to be used, and thus bring

unique problems upon themselves. Statistics prove that homosexuals struggle with things such as health problems, increased emotional problems and depression, increased "domestic" violence and increased suicide rates. What is portrayed on our TV as a harmless, alternative lifestyle is not harmless at all.

Proper Attitude Towards Homosexuality and Homosexuals. The Bible teaches that ***Homosexuality*** is a sin. It is an abomination against God that is destroying lives and families, as well as the moral fiber of our country. However, the Bible teaches that ***Homosexuals*** are people who are deserving of our love and pity, not our hate. They need the gospel. They need to know that God loves them, but that He can not accept them in their sin. They need to know that they *must* change their behavior and that they *can* change their behavior (1 Cor. 6:9-11). The message of the Bible for the homosexual is the same as for any sinner: it is a message of hope and forgiveness for those who are willing to repent (1 Tim. 1:15).

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