

# Homosexuality

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## Introduction; The Episcopal church has been in the news a lot recently.

- A. They have openly accepted homosexuality.
  - 1. The church approved of its first openly gay bishop and made a resolution approving ‘same-sex’ marriages.
  - 2. Also in the news is the United Church of Canada. They have also condoned ‘same-sex’ marriages. Other liberal denominations have done so or are considering doing these things.
  - 3. This has caused some serious problems with the Catholic church. Despite its other errors it still opposes homosexuality. The Episcopal church is the American branch of the Anglican church of England. The split came after the Revolutionary War.
  - 4. The Anglican church is the link between the Protestants and Catholics. King Henry broke away in the 1500’s to divorce his wife. Few changes were actually made in the church. The Catholic church, the Anglican church, and the Episcopal church will share communion with each other.
  - 5. A top Roman Catholic bishop said this decision by the Episcopal church poses ‘serious implications’ for relationship between the churches. There are talks of splits and new denominations because of this.
- B. This decision cannot be made by church councils.
  - 1. God’s word is the standard for religion. It also defines right and wrong for the world. Men are in sin because they break God’s laws.
  - 2. Jehovah set the standard for morality in the very beginning. He made them male and female and said to multiply and fill the earth —Gen 1:28.
  - 3. God made Adam and Eve and married them —Gen 2:21-25. Jesus refers back to this as the standard for morality. Many things that men do are wrong because they do not conform to this standard. Homosexuality is one of them.
  - 4. *Matt 19:3-6 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" 4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 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'? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."*
  - 5. Divorce was wrong because it upset the standard from the beginning. We have to get back to ‘**book, chapter and verse**’ for this topic and every topic that comes up. God’s word is the standard we must live and worship by.
- C. We will see what the Bible says about sexuality and homosexuality today.

## I. Why is this so important?

- A. Some have asked, “If homosexuality was not a part of God’s plan, where did it come from?”
  - 1. It has been very common in some times. The ancient Greeks and Romans (and many others) openly and commonly practiced this.
  - 2. Their pagan and humanist beliefs saw nothing wrong with it. They rejected the one, true God and made gods in their own image who did what they wanted to do —see Rom 1:23.
  - 3. Many of those whom we call homosexual are actually bi-sexual. Many ancient people, because of their morality (or lack of it), saw nothing wrong with relationships with both sexes —and even with animals.
  - 4. Many practice homosexuality at some time who are not true homosexuals. They do it out of curiosity, for money and to defy society.
  - 5. It was commonly believed that homosexuals make up about 10% of our society. Recent surveys show that the number of true homosexuals (desiring only their own sex) is only about 3 to 5 percent.
- B. Modern scientists are not really sure what causes homosexuality.
  - 1. Some say it is inborn. They say some people are born homosexual and have no choice. This emotional argument is often used to gain sympathy for homosexuality.

2. Others say it is a developed attraction. Something happens in a person's life that turns them homosexual. Some have blamed a domineering mother for this. Still others say it is a combination of several things.
  3. Many sins entered the world after man's fall in the beginning. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil opened man's eyes to many ways to turn good into evil.
  4. Satan tempted Eve to sin in the beginning and still does. Men can say, "No," but many do not.
  5. Some say there may be a genetic defect that causes homosexuality. Because of sin, and disease, diet, inbreeding, drugs, and other things since the beginning, many of man's genes have been damaged.
  6. Scientists today can examine a number of genes to tell us if we are prone to cancer, drunkenness, and a number of other diseases and characteristics. Some think a particular gene causes one's sexual orientation.
  7. The '**Why are some homosexual,**' argument is not a valid excuse to accept this sin. Men must say, "No." to other sins they want to do. They can say no to this one too.
- E. We still must make choices. While there are many things we cannot control, we can decide to sin or do right.

## II. What does God say about Homosexuality?

- A. Some try to argue that God does not deal with private homosexuality.
1. They say His word condemns **ritual prostitution** and **homosexuality**. This was a part of paganism and wrong because of being pagan, not because of homosexuality.
  2. We must study God's word and see for ourselves if homosexuality is wrong.
  3. Sodomy must be considered in this discussion. Sodomy is defined as; '*unnatural sexual intercourse, esp. of one man with another or of a human being with an animal.*' Sodomy includes homosexuality.
- B. The O.T. condemns this activity. Consider several passages.
1. *Lev 18:22 'You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination' —vs 23-25 also.*
  2. *Lev 20:13 '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. Their blood shall be upon them.'*
  3. *Deut 23:17-18 'There shall be no ritual harlot of the daughters of Israel, or a perverted one of the sons of Israel. You shall not bring the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the house of the LORD your God for any vowed offering, for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God.'*
  4. Deuteronomy 23 and other passages (1 Kings 15:11-12, etc.) do deal with cultic homosexuality, but Leviticus 18 and 20 do not.
  5. Homosexuality (and bestiality) was punished severely in the Old Testament. Sodomy is a perversion of God's plan for sexuality. The penalty for it was death.
- C. The N.T. also condemns homosexuality and sodomy.
1. Romans 1:18-23 (esp. vs 24-28); Paul is very plain about what the world did when it rejected God. Homosexuality was a part of what was wrong and caused Jesus to come and die on the cross.
  2. *1 Cor 6:9-11 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. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*
  3. *1 Tim 1:8-10 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,*
  4. Once again we see that the gay lifestyle is contrary to God's plan for human sexuality and is wrong. Both the Old and New Testaments condemn it.
  5. Modernists criticize Christians who decry homosexuality. They say we are inconsistent. We say we are under the N.T. but we go to the O.T. to condemn homosexuality.
  6. We go to the O.T. (both the law of Moses and before it) to show that homosexuality has always been wrong. We see that the N.T. condemns it too.

- D. Many have said that Sodom's sin was not homosexuality but a lack of hospitality.
1. Modernists ignore many passages to say this and go to the book of Ezekiel to defend their argument.
  2. *Ezekiel 16:49-50 "Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. 50 And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit."*
  3. A lack of hospitality may have been a sin of Sodom. Not helping the poor and needy may have been a sin too. These are common sins, even today. However homosexuality was the sin that condemned them.
  4. *Jude 1:6-7 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*
  5. **Genesis 19:1-11**; Several verses here show that the men wanted to abuse the men sexually. They were not just withholding hospitality to them. In vs 2 & 3 Lot insisted they not stay in the open.
  6. It was all the men of the city who wanted the men —vs 4. In verse 5 they wanted to 'know' them. 'Carnally' is in italics in the NKJV. That means it is added by the translators. The expression, 'know' is a euphemism for sexual relations or intimate knowledge.
  7. Verse 8 shows that they had sexual relations in mind. Lot offers his daughters. We are very surprised by this. He says that *'this is the reason they have come under my roof.'* Lot took them in to protect them from the men. This is not pagan ritual but rape.
- E. We see that God's word does deal with homosexuality. God has told us what He wants and what is wrong. Man is not at liberty to change God's laws.
1. This does not mean to imply that true homosexuals can be suddenly transformed into heterosexuals through baptism or prayer. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 6:11 that, "...*such were some of you.*" Evidently they had given up their homosexuality.
  2. Some are born blind or lame or with other problems. These are not gifts from God —as some liberal preachers tell homosexuals their homosexuality is. Faith, baptism, and prayer do not suddenly take these things away.
  3. Some must make themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven. Temptation by itself is not sin. It is giving into temptation, as David did with Bathsheba, that is sin.
  4. *Matt 19:12 "For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it."*
  5. Some heterosexuals must also make themselves eunuchs and not give into temptation —Matt 19:11, 12. So must homosexuals if they want to please God. They may not become heterosexual but they must live as a eunuch.

### III. What are the consequences of homosexuality?

- A. Homosexuality, like other sins, has consequences.
1. Most sins have both physical and spiritual consequences. This is certainly true with homosexuality.
  2. Some say we shouldn't condemn homosexuality. They say, *"Its their decision and life,"* and *"They will do it anyway."*
  3. This same argument is used to justify many things; drinking, drugs, dancing, etc. We might as well say that folks will always kill and steal and injure one another. Don't condemn and punish these sins.
  4. When drinking was legalized, it became a much greater problem. When abortion was legalized, it skyrocketed. If drugs are legalized, they will probably skyrocket too. If homosexuality is accepted universally, then it will become more and more common —as it was in the days of ancient Greece and Rome.
  5. *Prov 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.*
- B. The Gay lifestyle has consequences in this world.
1. We have seen that the law of Moses condemned them to death (Lev 20:13). This was probably neglected throughout most of Israel's history (like many of our laws), but should have been practiced for their good.
  2. In Gen 19, Sodom and the cities of the plain are destroyed for their wickedness. Sodomy was a part of their sin and is named after them.

3. In Judges 19 the Gibeahites wanted to commit sodomy and were destroyed for their sins.
4. In Romans 1 we see that God gave up the pagan world because of its sins—including sodomy. God rejects the gay lifestyle.
5. *Col 3:5-6 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.*
6. Punishment and the destruction of a nation have been consequences of homosexuality.

C. Homosexuality has an effect on society and the nation.

1. Edward Gibbon wrote extensively on the decline and fall of the Roman empire. He gives several reasons why Rome fell.
  - a) The destruction of the home. This includes divorce and homosexuality.
  - b) Higher and higher taxes and more social programs for the populace.
  - c) A mad craze for pleasure with sports becoming more brutal and exciting every year.
  - d) The decay of religion.
  - e) A gigantic armaments program when the real enemy was within—decadence.
  - f) A birthrate too low to repopulate the armies due to homosexuality.
  - g) **How many of these fit our own nation?**
2. There was a long period of time when Rome's population decreased. This was due to homosexuality, exposure of children and attempts at abortion.
3. This was all due to men and women wanting to follow their own pleasure and lusts and not stay at home and raise children.
4. While homosexuals make up 5% of the population they have 50% of all venereal disease and 88% of all AIDS cases. Their average lifespan is in the 40's. Very few live to be 60 and older.
5. Scripture warns us that there are consequences to a life of general disobedience to God's word. We need to listen.
6. *Hosea 8:7 "They sow the wind, And reap the whirlwind."*
7. *Job 4:8 Even as I have seen, Those who plow iniquity And sow trouble reap the same.*
8. *Gal 6:7-8 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

D. There will also be eternal consequences to sodomy.

1. Those who continue to practice it will be rejected by God in the end. They have not followed God's plan for sexuality.
2. *Rev 21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*
3. *Rev 22:15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.*

E. Sin has consequences.

1. We must not fool ourselves to think we do not reap what we sow, both in this world and the one to come.
2. We do not want to be told by God to, *"Depart from me, ye who work iniquity."*

## Conclusion; Men make choices to accept what God condemns.

A. Even "churches" vote to call evil, good and good, evil.

1. *Isa 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*
2. *Mal 2:17 You have wearied the LORD with your words; Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil Is good in the sight of the LORD, And He delights in them," Or, "Where is the God of justice?"*
3. *Amos 5:14-15 Seek good and not evil, That you may live; So the LORD God of hosts will be with you, As you have spoken. Hate evil, love good; Establish justice in the gate. It may be that the LORD God of hosts Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.*

4. As Christians, we must be concerned with the falling morals in our society. We must strive to return to God's standard and do what we can to turn our nation as well.
- B. If we really want to do what is right, we begin by becoming a Christian.
1. We must believe in Jesus Christ, repent of our sins, and be baptized into Christ so our sins can be forgiven.
  2. *Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
  3. See also Matt 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:46-48, John 3:3-5, Acts 18:8, 22:16, Rom 6:3-7, Gal 3:26-27, 1 Pet 3:21, etc.
- C. If any need to respond to the gospel today, please let the church assist you.

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