

# What's So Gay About Homosexuality?

Romans 1:18-28

## I. Introduction: 1, 2

1. Today I want to talk about a topic that I don't really like talking about: Homosexuality.
  - A. Some of the things I will say in this sermon are graphic and may offend the sensibilities of some.
  - B. If you think your children are too young to hear these things I would advise you to remove them from the auditorium.
  - C. However, at the same time, this issue is becoming so prominent, that we all need to hear what God's word has to say concerning it. I will try to be as delicate as I can.
2. 3 One would have to be living in a cave to have not heard the buzz in the media concerning the "gay marriage" (same-sex marriage) issue.
  - A. On Wednesday, May 9, 2012 President Obama announced his support of gay "marriage."
  - B. The President claimed his views on the issue were "evolving," and according to ABC News he said: "At a certain point I've just concluded that for me, personally, it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married."
  - C. I'm more inclined to believe the president's epiphany has a lot more to do with political expediency than a true change in his views.
3. 4 If one does not support gay "marriage" he/she is considered an arrogant bigot of the rankest sort; a 'neanderthal,' a 'knuckle dragger,' or on the 'wrong side of history.'
4. 5 Against my better judgment I have followed this issue on various news-related web sites. I was amazed at some of the comments found there.
  - A. Many of the comments were supportive of gay marriage as a grand and glorious triumph of "civil rights" and condemned those who oppose gay marriage by placing them in the same category as those in the 'Jim Crow' south who denied equal rights to black people!
  - B. Some are even going so far as to claim Jesus would be pleased! In fact, Jesus would not only be pleased, He would approve, and yea, even celebrate the "gay lifestyle" and same-sex marriage.
  - C. Some even go so far as to claim Jesus Himself was a homosexual!
5. 6 First, let's stop using euphemisms and call the "gay lifestyle" what it is and "same-sex marriage" what it is.
  - A. The so-called "gay lifestyle" is the practice of *homosexuality*.
  - B. Same-sex "marriage" is the "marriage" of two *homosexuals*.
6. 7 Second, despite the claims of homosexuals and their supporters, Jesus never approved of homosexuality and most certainly Jesus was not a homosexual.
  - A. In reality, Jesus, through the words of the Holy Spirit, denounces homosexuality using some of the most direct and stark language in the New Testament.
  - B. What people don't realize is that just because this condemnation is not in red letters does not mean Jesus approves of homosexuality.

## II. Discussion:

1. 8 The Nature of Jesus' Word: Those who claim Jesus Himself never condemns homosexuality do not understand the nature of Jesus' revealed word.

- A. Just before His crucifixion Jesus promised the apostles He would send the Holy Spirit to “teach you [apostles] *all things*, and bring to your [apostles] *remembrance all things that I said to you [apostles]*” (Jn. 14:26; cf. Jn. 15:26).
- B. Furthermore, the apostle Paul tells us he and the other “*apostles and prophets*” wrote these revelations down so that “when you [that’s us!] read, you [that’s us!] may understand my [inspired apostles and prophets] *knowledge in the mystery of Christ*” (Eph. 3:3, 4).
  - (1) The Holy Spirit’s guidance of the apostles and prophets into “*all truth*” (Jn. 16:13) was completed by the end of the first century so Jude could write: “*contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints*” (Jude 3).
  - (2) **9** Thus, when we read the words written by these inspired men it’s as if we are reading the words of the Lord Himself! **1 Cor. 14:37**: “*If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.*”
- C. Thus, good Bible students can be confident when they read the New Testament every word written, whether it be by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James or Jude, in reality emanated from “the Word”; Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:1).

## 2. **10** Does Jesus Approve of Homosexuality?

- A. One does not have to look very far to answer that question in the negative.
- B. In Romans chapter one the apostle Paul gives a scathing examination of the character of the Gentile world in the first century (**Rom. 1:18-28**).
  - (1) The prevailing attitude of those folks was one of “*ungodliness*” and “*unrighteousness*” (v. 18a).
  - (2) In fact, they were not just satisfied to live ungodly and unrighteous lives; they went even further and sought to “*suppress the truth*” in their unrighteous living (v. 18b; NIV).
  - (3) Their ungodly and unrighteous lives led them to a point they refused to “*glorify Him as God*,” “*nor were unthankful*” despite the fact God’s “*invisible attributes...even His eternal power and Godhead...are clearly seen*” (v. 20).
- C. **11** Where did all this “*ungodliness*,” “*unrighteousness*” and suppression “*of the truth*” lead them?
  - (1) First, they became “*futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened*” (v. 21).
  - (2) In other words it led them to reject the one true and living God (vv. 22-23) and practice gross immorality in their personal lives.
  - (3) Next, Paul says their depravity caused them to profess “*to be wise*” but in reality “*they became fools*” (v. 22). The first result of this foolishness was their rejection of the one true and living God by turning to rank idolatry (v. 23).
- D. **12** What was God’s response? “*Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves*” (v. 24).
  - (1) How did this “*uncleanness*,” “*lust of their hearts*,” and dishonoring of “*their bodies*” manifest itself?
  - (2) The very first manifestation was the giving of themselves over to homosexuality.

## 3. **13** Paul’s Inspired and Graphic Description of Homosexuality

- A. In verses 26-28 Paul very graphically describes the sordid state of their behavior as they practiced homosexuality.
- B. Those today who support and/or celebrate homosexuality need to very carefully consider Paul’s graphic and vile description of the degradation of homosexuality (recall these are inspired words, hence as if the Lord Himself spoke them!).
- C. This passage describes homosexuality as:

- (1) “*uncleanness*” (v. 24): Behavior that is “*unclean*” is impure. Therefore, homosexuality involves one in conduct God considers morally impure or filthy.
- (2) “*lusts of their hearts*” (v. 24): The source of homosexual behavior originates in the “*heart*” as an expression of one’s “*lusts*.”
  - (a) The word *lust* means desire, craving, longing or inclination. In and of itself, *lust* is neutral, it is neither bad nor good and only the passage’s context determines its connotation.
  - (b) In this context it is obviously bad. Here the desires (lusts) of the people’s hearts drove them to engage in this degrading behavior.
  - (c) The “gay community” and their supporters would have the world believe homosexual behavior, like blue eyes and blond hair, is determined by genetics. This passage, however, reveals the truth of the matter: Homosexuality, like all sin, is a conscious decision made by man’s free will.
- (3) **14** “*dishonor their bodies*” (v. 24): Men and women who practice homosexuality shamefully insult their own bodies through their licentious behavior.
  - (a) In 1 Corinthians 6:18 Paul warns Christians to “*Flee sexual immorality.*” Why? Because anytime a person commits any form of sexual immorality, be it homosexual or heterosexual, he “*sins against his own body*” (1 Cor. 6:18).
  - (b) God designed and reserved sexual intercourse for a man and a woman who are legitimately married to one another (**Heb. 13:4**: “*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*”). Thus, to engage in fornication is to “*dishonor*” your body by using it for a purpose contrary to our Creator’s design.
- (4) “*vile passions*” (v. 26): According to Trench, “*vile passions*” are those having a dishonoring or shameful effect.
  - (a) The passions under consideration are those that cause women to lust after women sexually and the same for men with men. The world is promoting homosexuality as that which is good and honorable; celebrated!
  - (b) However, this verse and verse 24 make it crystal clear God considers homosexual behavior to be shameful conduct that dishonors those participating in it.
- (5) **15** “*against nature*” (vv. 26 & 27): In verse 26 lesbian conduct, sex between women, is under view.
  - (a) The “*natural*” mode of sexual intercourse is between a man and women (legitimately married to one another, Heb. 13:4). Homosexual behavior, whether a woman with a woman (v. 26) or a man with a man (v. 27) is “*exchanging*” the “*natural use*” for “*what is against nature*” (v. 26).
  - (b) One has only to consider the anatomy of the man and the woman to know men and women are anatomically compatible for sexual intercourse.
  - (c) However, in order for two women to engage in sexual intercourse the “*natural use*” must be abandoned and sexual intercourse can only be “*simulated.*” I regret being so graphic, but that is what it is.
  - (d) The same is true for men. In order for men to have sexual intercourse with men they must abandon “*the natural use of the woman*” and engage in anal intercourse (i.e., sodomy, pederasty).
  - (e) When one truly considers these unnatural acts it is easy to see why Paul describes them as *unclean* and *dishonoring* to one’s body, a *vile passion*.

- (f) No manner of politically correct rhetoric can rehabilitate such behavior into that which is honorable and commendable unless one totally abandons every principle of decency set forth by God's word.
- (6) **16** “*shameful*” (v. 27): In this verse Paul, through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, calls sodomy (i.e., anal intercourse between two men), as that which is “*shameful*.”
- (a) This means such behavior is “degrading.” When one contemplates the act of sodomy what better word could describe it than “degrading”?
  - (b) No amount of verbiage can rehabilitate such acts into something good and acceptable unless one first casts God and His principles for righteous living completely aside.
- (7) “*error*” (v. 27): Vine defines this word as “lit., ‘a wandering,’ whereby those who are led astray roam hither and thither, is always used in the NT, of mental straying, wrong opinion, error in morals or religion.”
- (a) Today’s cockeyed society promotes homosexuality as the “norm,” something to celebrate.
  - (b) Those brave enough to speak out against it are labeled as bigots and intimidation is brought to bear to ostracize them.
  - (c) However, as long as we speak “*the truth in love*” concerning this issue we are not the one in “*error*.” The “*error*” is homosexuality and those supporting it.
  - (d) Truly the “gay community” and their supporters “*call evil good, and good evil...put darkness for light, and light for darkness...put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*” (Isa. 5:20)
- (8) **17** “*a debased mind*” (v. 28): Vine: “not standing the test, rejected”; negative of approved. One of the saddest statements in the Bible is repeated three times in Romans chapter one: “*God also gave them up,*” (v. 24); “*God gave them up,*” (v. 26); and “*God gave them over*” (v. 28).
- (a) If we don’t allow God to guide our lives He will give up on us! Free will is a wonderful gift God has given man. However, our choices have consequences.
  - (b) Thus, when one gets to the point where they turn their backs on God there are serious consequences: He allows it to happen and turns His back on us!
  - (c) When that takes place we are on the slippery slope to every sort of base and degrading sins (vv. 29-31).
  - (d) **18** Society would have us believe those practicing and condoning homosexuality are liberated and enlightened when nothing could be further from the truth. For example, consider these sobering statistics (from the *Trevor Project*: [www.thetrevorproject.com](http://www.thetrevorproject.com)):
    - ☛ **\*\***Lesbians are two times more likely to attempt suicide than straight women.
    - ☛ **\*\***Gay and lesbian youth account for up to 30% of all “completed” suicides.
    - ☛ **\*\***Gay teens are 3 times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers.
    - ☛ **19**Gay teens are 4 times more likely to make a suicide attempt requiring medical attention.
    - ☛ **\*\***Gay men are 6 times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers.
    - ☛ **\*\***Among gay men HIV infection rate 44 times higher than heterosexual men, 40 times higher than women. (Source: *The Bilerico Project*)
    - ☛ **20**Among gay men syphilis infection rate 46 times higher than heterosexual men, 71 times higher than women. (Source: *The Bilerico Project*)
    - ☛ **\*\***“Rates of depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder, phobia, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, and alcohol and drug dependence were significantly higher in

homosexual respondents.” (Source: *PsychCentral*)

- (e) These statistics are tragic, and unfortunately, totally avoidable if men and women would allow God to direct their lives.

(9) **21** “*not fitting*” (v. 28): Finally, homosexual behavior is “*not fitting*.”

- (a) One commentator put this idea succinctly by saying, “The idea is then that the deeds done by those of a rejected or reprobate mind are not fitting or proper in relation to God’s standard of morality.” (Clinton Hamilton, *Truth Commentary on Romans*, p. 96).
- (b) Anytime we allow our lifestyle to stray from the path of righteousness defined by God’s word we will not *fit the truth* but will be in error.
- (c) Sin’s attractiveness is deceiving! Ultimately it is a hard taskmaster that leads us to do increasingly vile and dishonoring acts that inevitably enslave and destroy us (cf. v. 32).

### III. Conclusion: **22**

- I. Homosexuality is a degrading and horrific sin the “gay community,” and the world in general, wants all of society to accept as normal.
  - A. In reality they want even more, they want to force all of society to “celebrate” the “gay lifestyle” and same-sex marriage as a great triumph of civil rights.
  - B. However, God throughout all time has considered homosexuality a sin (Gen. 19; Lev. 18:22; 20:13; **1 Cor. 6:9-10**: “*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, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.*”).
  - C. Furthermore, same-sex marriage will require a complete redefinition of marriage; one which is entirely contrary to the biblical principle that “*a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*” (Matt. 19:5; Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve or Eve and Eva).
2. The laws of man may change and “legitimize” such unions, but God’s laws will never change.
  - A. Homosexuality will continue to be a sin, and just like all sins, will condemn one’s soul to an eternal hell if one does not repent.
  - B. Furthermore, society in general will suffer as it repudiates God’s principles of righteousness.
  - C. As the wise man said, “*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.*” (Prov. 14:34)
    - (1) Our nation is already spilling an ocean of innocent blood due to “legalized” abortion.
    - (2) Legalization of homosexual marriages is surely another step that will take our nation closer in the direction of God’s righteous judgment for America.
3. Neither God or His people are homophobic. Homosexuals are no more, or no less, lost than those guilty of other sins. **\*\***

“*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. 11 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.*” (1 Cor. 6:9-11)

  - A. God and His people’s desire are one and the same, that “*all men [might] be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth*” (1 Tim. 2:4).
  - B. We plead with homosexuals, and all sinners, to repent and obey the gospel of Christ so their sins might be forgiven, they may live a new life in Christ and have the hope of eternal life.