



Trends

“When asked if homosexuality was rooted solely in biology, gay gene researcher, Dean Hamer, replied, ‘Absolutely not. From twin studies, we already know that half or more of the variability in sexual orientation is not inherited. Our studies try to pinpoint the genetic factors...not negate the psychosocial factors.’”

—via *Conservapedia*

Leviticus 18:22: “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.” (cf. Romans 1:24-28)

Sentence Sermons

“From a religious point of view, if God had thought homosexuality is a sin, he would not have created gay people.” —Howard Dean

I Corinthians 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.”



News & Notes

- Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.
- Pray for all the members at Westside! Please pray for Susan Ferrell and her family as she continues to recover from a brain tumor. Please pray for her and her family.
- Please pray for Alan Jones. He underwent deep brain stimulation to hopefully relieve severe facial pain. Alan held a gospel meeting for us in October 2014. He's been unable to preach for several months due to his affliction. Pray for him and his family.
- Please pray for sister Virginia Brown's upcoming hip replacement surgery (2/15/17).
- Pray for the all of our students. Schools are back in session and bring many temptations to our young people.
- Please keep sister Wilma in your prayers! She gives all of us so much encouragement! God bless her and Virginia! Remember both of them in your prayers.
- There are many needy saints! Can you help?! Let me know.
- If you know of any in need of our prayers please let us know!



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Words of Life

Westside church of Christ



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“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

John 6:68

Jesus and Homosexual Behavior
Ethan R. Longhenry

These days some who attempt to justify or commend homosexual behavior attempt to enlist Jesus as their ally. They suggest He may not have been opposed to homosexual behavior because “Jesus did not say anything against homosexuality.”

It is true that the New Testament does not record Jesus saying anything explicitly about homosexuality or about homosexual behavior. Therefore, it is also true that Jesus does not explicitly condemn homosexuality or homosexual behavior. Yet it also means that Jesus never explicitly commends, advocates, or justifies homosexuality or homosexual behavior.

People prove far too willing to impose their own views and understandings in matters and places where Jesus was silent. We must be on our guard lest we fall into this temptation. Nevertheless, from a careful investigation in the New Testament we can come to an understanding of how Jesus views homosexual behavior.

Jesus was born, lived, and died as a first century Palestinian Jew, under the Law of Moses, and affirmed its inspiration and value. In order to establish a new covenant Jesus first had to fulfill the Law of Moses, and did so by living according to it and upholding it in His life (Matthew 5:17-18). Jesus castigated those who taught in ways which would relax observance of the Law of Moses and commended those who affirmed and observed the whole of the Law of Moses (Matthew 5:19-20). The Law of Moses explicitly and specifically condemned homosexual behavior as sinful (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13). Therefore, in order to uphold the Law of Moses, Jesus would have recognized homosexual behavior as being sinful.

Jesus’ sexual ethics were even stricter than those in the Law of Moses, not looser, and are rooted in the creation. The Law of Moses allowed for divorce for all sorts of reasons (Deuteronomy 24:1-4, Matthew 19:8). In Matthew 19:4-6, 9, Jesus repudiates all reasons save for *porneia*, sexually deviant behavior, on account of God’s purposes for marriage as established in the creation: *God made them male and female, and a man shall leave father and*

mother and cling to his wife, the two become one flesh, and what God has joined man is not to separate (cf. Genesis 1:27, 2:24). Jesus speaks of marriage as taking place between a man and a woman, according to the way God created people, and that God is the one who joins a man and a woman in marriage, and man is not to separate that union. There is no similar declaration suggesting that God would join two men or two women together; there is no room to force same sex relationships into the statements Jesus made. Jesus does not relax the sexual ethics of the Law of Moses; in fact, He demands from His followers an even stricter standard (the forgiveness of the woman caught in adultery in John 7:53-8:11 is based on her repentance and her no longer sinning in that way; Jesus never justified her behavior). We have no reason to believe that Jesus would maintain a more lax standard in regards to homosexual behavior when elsewhere His standard is the same as or even stricter than the Law of Moses.

Homosexual behavior would be condemned under *porneia*. As mentioned above Jesus did make one exception for divorce: if the spouse committed *porneia*, translated variously as “fornication” or “sexual immorality” (Matthew 19:9, Mark 10:11-12, Luke 16:18). Jesus condemns the *porneia* that comes out of people’s heart in Matthew 15:19 and Mark 7:21. *Porneia*, literally, is that which is done with a *porne*, a prostitute, of which there were both male and female in the ancient world (cf. I Corinthians 6:13-20); the word thus involves sexually deviant behavior. While the term does involve more than homosexual behavior, homosexual behavior is included within the parameters of *porneia* (cf. Jude 1:7 -> Genesis 19:5). Jesus, therefore, condemned *porneia*, sexually deviant behavior, which includes homosexual behavior, and He does not provide any caveats or exceptions that would somehow commend or excuse homosexual behavior.

Jesus’ chosen representatives who spoke on His behalf condemned homosexual behavior. Jesus chose men who saw Him in His resurrection to go and proclaim His message to the world (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 9:4-6, 15-16). According to the New Testament Jesus spoke and worked through them to advance His Kingdom (Acts 1:1, 8). Among such men both Paul and Jude explicitly condemn homosexual behavior among both men and women (Romans 1:24-27, I Corinthians 6:9-10, Jude 1:7). Jesus spoke through these men and there is nothing which suggests that they misunderstood Him or distorted His teachings in regard to homosexual behavior in any way.

While Jesus may not have explicitly addressed homosexual behavior, all of the evidence from the New Testament demonstrates that Jesus would have considered such behavior to be sinful. Jesus likewise considered many other behaviors, including many heterosexual behaviors, to be equally sinful, and provided through His death and resurrection the means by which everyone could be forgiven of their sins and be saved (Matthew 19:3-9, John 3:16). Some early Christians had participated in homosexual behavior yet repented of their sins and found cleansing, justification, and sanctification through God in Christ (I Corinthians 6:9-11). It may not be

popular in culture, and it may conflict with the way many would like to see Jesus, but the witness of the New Testament about Jesus is clear: He considered homosexual behavior to be sinful. Let us affirm Jesus’ sexual ethics and live by them!

Homosexuality: What does the Bible say?

Craig Thomas

In recent months the topic of homosexuality has come up quite often in the news. For example, recently there was a news report about a lesbian, woman “pastor” in the United Methodist Church. There has been a great push by many for acceptance of the gay “lifestyle” and to brand those opposing it as hateful, narrow-minded bigots. Today homosexuality is equated with being a member of a minority race or religion. Everyone, from Hollywood movie stars to Washington politicians, appear bent on praising homosexuality as an accepted “alternative lifestyle” in our “politically correct” society. However, isn’t it time we asked ourselves “Does God approve”? Consider that the Bible says:

1. **It is against nature.** Read and study Romans 1:26-27. In that passage homosexuality is said to be “*against nature*.” One does not have to be a “rocket scientist” to see that Paul hit the nail squarely on the head with his inspired statement. Because God’s word plainly teaches that woman was made for man (Gen. 2:20-23) and marriage consists of a male (man) and female (wife) (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:4-6). God intended for Adam (man) and Eve (woman) to be married, not Adam and Steve or Alice and Eve!

2. **It will keep one from heaven.** In I Corinthians 6:9-10 homosexuals are listed with others who “*shall not inherit the kingdom of God*” (KJV). While the churches of men, the media, and liberal politicians may state otherwise “*be not deceived!*” The only homosexual to enter the kingdom of God is one that repents (I Cor. 6:11).

3. **It is an abomination.** An abomination is something loathsome, repulsive, and detestable. In Leviticus 18:22 God said, “*You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.*” Surely that is clear enough to understand. Further, the Bible says, “*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) We are not advocating the death penalty for homosexuals, only pointing out the dreadful and abominable nature of this sin in the eyes of God.

4. **It is a very grievous sin.** Sodom and Gomorrah were cities that accepted and engaged in homosexuality (Gen. 18:20; 19:4-8). Notice what their gay pride got them (Gen. 19:24-28; Lk. 17:29).

5. **It can cause a nation to be destroyed.** The Bible says the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah was an example “*to those who afterward would live ungodly*” (2 Pet. 2:6-8). Since the Lord brings nations to power and sustains them (Dan. 4:25), can He not also remove and destroy them? Certainly! (Psa. 135:6-11). America is no different “*For the nation...which will not serve you shall perish, and those nations shall be utterly ruined.*” (Isa. 60:12)