

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. Most of this material is from 12/2014, but I feel compelled to revisit and revise this material.
 - (1) Dawne is constantly bombarded with this at school and made to feel socially ostracized because she is a Christian and does not accept homosexuality as an acceptable "life-style."
 - (2) She's being told by these people that the Bible, or Jesus, does not condemn homosexuality as a sin; in fact, Jesus would supposedly celebrate homosexuality (He Himself was a homosexual!).
 - B. Some of the things I will say in this sermon are graphic and may offend the sensibilities of some (I don't aim to offend, but to educate!).
 - C. This issue is so prominent we all need to hear what God's Word has to say concerning it.
2. **3** A decade ago the thought same-sex marriage would be the law in the U.S. was unthinkable. But now it is thanks to the U.S. Supreme Court (06/26/2015; *Obergefell v. Hodges*).
3. The social pressure it is bringing to bear is tremendous! If one doesn't support gay marriage he/she is called an arrogant bigot, a 'Neanderthal,' a 'knuckle dragger,' or on the 'wrong side of history.'
 - A. **4** Society in general, and the gay community specifically, seeks more than social and religious acceptance; they demand their lifestyle be celebrated!

******"We are no longer seeking just a right to privacy or a right to protection from wrong. We also have a right ... to see government and society affirm our lives." Jeffrey Levi, former director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (*Citizen*, 5/97)
 - B. ****** Furthermore, the gay community seeks to silence any opposition to their agenda.
 - (1) Seek "hate crime" legislation that could prohibit all speaking against homosexuality.
 - (2) Many schools, universities, and businesses are adopting such speech codes; e.g., Massachusetts state guidelines say public schools should adopt policies that "prohibit anti-gay language" by faculty or students. (*New American*, 1/24/94, p. 30)
 - (3) I believe in the near future sermons like this one may result in severe repercussions from the government (e.g., jail time, fines, loss of tax exempt status).
4. **5** I am amazed at some of the comments on news/political web site concerning this issue.
 - A. Gay marriage is now promoted as a grand and glorious triumph of "civil rights" and those opposing it in favor of traditional marriage are condemned by placing us 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 by gay marriage! He 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** 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. Let's look at what God's Word teaches concerning homosexual behavior.

II. Discussion:

1. **7** Homosexual behavior in the Old Testament:

Lev. 18:22-23: “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. 23 Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.

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.”

Lev. 20:15-16: “If a man mates with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the animal. 16 If a woman approaches any animal and mates with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood is upon them.”

- A. To “lie with a male as with a woman” refers to sexual intercourse (male homosexuals it refers to sodomy; lesbianism to ‘simulated’ sexual intercourse; cf. **Gen. 30:14-17**; 39:7-14; Num. 5:13, etc.).
- (1) Note the punishment described in these verses is an Old Testament teaching, not a New Testament teaching, and was administered by the government, not by individual vengeance.
 - (2) As we will see, the New Testament morally opposes homosexuality, as surely as the Old Testament did, but it nowhere justifies individuals or government seeking to harm others.
 - (3) Old Testament law was limited in application and duration (i.e., only for Israel to bring them “to Christ”; Gal. 3:24-25); not meant for all of mankind for all of time as is the New Testament. (i.e., Gay community accuses Christians of wanting death penalty for homosexuals.)
- B. ** In Leviticus God places homosexual sex on the same level as bestiality (note: “nor” in 18:23), both are perversions of the natural order. **Thus, homosexuality is an abomination!**
- C. **8 Sodom:** the gay community claims God destroyed Sodom simply because they failed to show proper hospitality and it had nothing to do with homosexual behavior (see Gen. 19:1-11).
- (1) When two men (angels) stayed in the home of Lot, the men of Sodom insisted that Lot bring them out so they might “know them” (v. 5).
 - (2) “Know” here clearly means sexual knowledge (i.e., to “know them carnally”; NKJV; “Bring them out so that we can have sex with them.” NIV; Same as Gibeah’s crime in Judges 19:22; Every respected commentator says these are references to homosexual sex!).
 - (3) It could not mean simply to make acquaintance, for Lot would not have called that “wicked” (v. 7; For similar instances, note v. 8 and see Num. 31:17, 18, 35; Gen. 4:1, 17, 25; Matt. 1:23-25; Lk. 1:27, 34, etc.).
 - (4) Clearly, the men of Sodom desired to “sodomize” the angels, but Lot said this was “wicked” (v. 7) and God determined to destroy the city (19:12-28). The name of this city has become synonymous with homosexuality (The word ‘sodomy’ is derived from Sodom!).
 - (5) **2 Pet. 2:6-8; Jude 7** Contrary to what some believe, God still holds the same view of such conduct. The NT describes the conduct of these men as “ungodly,” “filthy,” “wicked,” and “lawless.” Sodom is expressly cited as an example that God will punish wicked people.
 - (6) Also, note Jude 7 expressly calls their conduct “sexual immorality and perversion” (NIV). This confirms the conclusions we already reached: homosexuality is classed by God as fornication.
 - (7) To claim Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for any other reason than fornication and sexual perversion is a gross “wresting” of the Scriptures! 2 Pet. 3:16

2. **9 Did Jesus condemn homosexual behavior?**

- A. Those who claim Jesus never condemns homosexuality do not understand the New Testament.
- (1) First, it is wrong to jump to a conclusion based on silence.
 - (a) It’s true that in all the recorded words of Jesus in the New Testament, He never said anything specifically about homosexuality.

- (b) He also never said it's wrong to put a kitty cat in a microwave oven and roast it!
- (c) But, He did condemn "fornication" (Mk. 5:32; Matt. 19:9) which is a general term for "sexual immorality" which would include homosexual behavior.

(2) **10** People making this claim also do not understand the way in which Jesus revealed His 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) and "to guide you [apostles] into all truth" (Jn. 16:13).
- (b) 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).
 - (i) 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).
 - (ii) **11** So, when we read the words written by these inspired men it's as if we're 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."

B. Good Bible students can be confident every word written in the NT, whether it be by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James or Jude, in reality emanated from "the Word"; Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:1; cf. 1 Cor. 2:9-10 ("God has revealed" "the things [He] prepared for those who love Him"; ∴ to deny His condemnation of homosexuality is not to "love Him"!)).

C. **12** Does Jesus approve of homosexual behavior?

- (1) One does not have to look very far to answer that question in the negative.
- (2) 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**).
 - (a) The prevailing attitude of those folks was one of "ungodliness" and "unrighteousness" (v. 18a).
 - (b) 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).
 - (c) 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).

D. **13** 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 (recall **Concepts** chart!).
- (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).

E. **14** 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. **15** Paul's inspired and graphic description of homosexual behavior:

- A. In vv. 24-28 Paul graphically describes their sordid 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 they are as if the Lord Himself spoke them!).
- C. This passage describes homosexual behavior as:
- (1) ****** “uncleanness” (v. 24): Behavior that is “unclean” is impure. Therefore, homosexuality involves one in conduct God considers morally impure or filthy (cf. 2 Pet. 2:6-8; Jude 7).
 - (2) “lusts of their hearts” (v. 24): The source of homosexual behavior originates in the “heart” as an expression of one’s “lusts.” cf. Jas. 1:13-15
 - (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) **16** Nature vs. nurture?
 - ☛ 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.
 - ☛ Studies with identical twins does indicate homosexual behavior has a genetic “component,” but environment plays a much larger role than genetics (i.e., more nurture than nature!).
 - ☛ Identical twin studies: 100% identical genetically, therefore, if homosexuality was determined by biology one would expect if one twin is “gay” the chance for the other twin being “gay” would be 100%. Not so!
 - ☛ The most robust and well-vetted studies indicate, at most, if one twin is “gay” there is about a 20% chance the other twin will also be “gay.”
 - ☛ So, yes, genetics plays a role (as it does in many behaviors like alcoholism, rape, depression, arson, etc.; 90% of criminals are male); but, *biology does not determine destiny*.
 - ☛ Genetically some may have a propensity for homosexual behavior, but it is still a matter of choice (just like alcoholism, drug use, criminal behavior, etc.).
 - ☛ ******As one expert says (Dr. Joseph Davis): “Anybody who tells you that we have found a gene that creates homosexuality has not read the reports, does not know what they are talking about, and is illiterate on the topic.”
 - (3) **17** “dishonor their bodies” (v. 24): Men and women who practice homosexuality shamefully insult their own bodies through their licentious behavior.
 - (a) In I 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) Because, 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; something to be 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) **18** “*against nature*” (vv. 26 & 27): In verse 26 lesbian conduct, sex between women, is under view and male homosexual behavior in verse 27.
- (a) The “*natural*” mode of sexual intercourse is between a man and a woman (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 only has to consider the anatomy of the man and the woman to know men and women are anatomically compatible for sexual intercourse.
- (c) However, for two women to engage in sexual intercourse the “*natural use*” must be abandoned (i.e., sexual intercourse is only “*simulated*”). Graphic? Yes, but true!
- (d) The same applies to men; 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) **19** “*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 (celebrate!) 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 and encourage.
- (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 (Eph. 5:11; Ezek. 33:7-9).
- (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) **20** “*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) He allows us to take the slippery slope to every sort of base and degrading sins (vv. 29-31).
 - (d) **21** Society would have us believe those practicing and condoning homosexuality are liberated and enlightened when nothing could be further from the truth. Consider these sobering statistics (from the *Trevor Project*: www.thetrevorproject.com):
 - ☛ ******Lesbians are two times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexuals (Dr. Joseph Davis reports suicide rate for heterosexual women is 4.1%, while lesbians it is 28.4%!).
 - ☛ ******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.
 - ☛ **22**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*)
 - ☛ **23**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*)
 - ☛ **24**According to the *Centers for Disease Control*: “Men who have sex with men...are only 2% of the US population, yet
 - ☛ “account for 60% of all new HIV infections” (CDC).
 - ☛ “are 40 times more likely to be infected with HIV”
 - ☛ “are the only risk group in which new HIV infections have been steadily increasing since the early 1990s”
 - (e) These statistics are tragic, and unfortunately; but they are also totally avoidable if men and women would allow God to direct their lives!
- (9) **25** “*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: **26**

- 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, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”).
- C. Furthermore, same-sex marriage requires a complete redefinition of marriage; one 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) Another tragic fact: 26 studies now confirm that the rate of homosexuality among children adopted by homosexuals is massively greater than those adopted by heterosexuals (i.e., rates of homosexuality among children adopted into “lesbian” families is 14-47%; whereas the rate in the total population is only ~2%!).
3. **27** Despite the charge, neither God or His people are homophobic.
- A. Homosexuals, like all people, regardless of race, sex, nationality, or the particular sins that may dominate their lives, are still created in God’s “image” (Gen. 1:26-27) and, therefore, deserve our respect and love.
- B. God loves the sinner, but hates the sin (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8) and so must we!
- C. You and I are no better than any sinner (regardless on the nature of their sin; Rom. 3:23).
- D. 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. I I 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)
- E. 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).
- F. 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.