

# HOMOSEXUALITY

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Some time ago, I received this email. “I am wondering if you have written a paper or have any insight you can share about how we as Christians are to interact with homosexuals that we know and love as friends. I got into a conversation with someone about this issue and was wondering what your take on it is. How are we to minister to them and do we abandon them at some point if they are unwilling to admit that their lifestyle is sinful, etc.?”

All thoughtful Christians who have contact with homosexuals should be asking those kinds of questions. This last week the Supreme Court ruled that every state must recognize homosexual marriage (6/26/2015). That is sure to provoke questions and discussions. Within several hours of the announcement, I received text and phone calls about it.

What does the Bible say about homosexuality? It is generally assumed the Bible is against it, but there are Christian scholars who say that is not so. As the man who sent me the email asked, “How are we as Christians to interact with homosexuals?”

## Homosexuality is a Sin

Eleven passages in the Bible speak about homosexuality.

1. In Genesis 19, homosexuality is called evil. Genesis 19:1-13. When the men of Sodom wanted to have a homosexual relationship with a male guest in Lot’s house, Lot said to them, “Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!” (Gen. 19:7). The Hebrew word translated “wickedly” means “to be bad, be evil, to be displeasing.”

2. In Leviticus 18:22, homosexuality is disgusting in God’s sight. “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It *is* an abomination.” The Hebrew word translated “abomination” means “a disgusting thing, abomination, abominable.” It should be pointed out that Moses also said, “For all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, *are* an abomination to the LORD your God” (Deut. 25:16). Homosexuality is a disgusting thing in God’s sight *as are all who behave unrighteously*.

3. In Leviticus 23:13, homosexuality is worthy of death. “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.” It should be pointed out that Moses said, “The man who commits adultery with *another* man’s wife, *he* who commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death” (Lev. 20:10). In the Mosaic Law, homosexuals were punished by death *as were adulterers*.

4. In Judges 19:16-30, homosexuality is a disgraceful folly. In Judges 19, what happened in Sodom happened in Gibeah. “Perverted men” of the city wanted to have a homosexual relationship with a guest in a man’s house. The Hebrew word translated “perverted” means “worthlessness, good for nothing, unprofitable, base fellow.” The man told him, “No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act *so* wickedly! The Hebrew word translated “wickedly” is the same one that is translated “wickedly” in Genesis 19:7. Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage” (Judges 19:23) .... “Do not do such a vile thing” (Judges 19:24). The Hebrew word translated “outrage” means “senselessness,

disgraceful folly, immorality, profane action” and the one rendered “vile thing” is the same Hebrew word that is translated “outrage” in the previous verse.

5-7. In 1 Kings 14:24, 1 Kings 15:12, and 2 Kings 23:7, homosexuality was part of pagan temple prostitution. “And there were also perverted persons (Hebrew: “male temple prostitute”) in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel” (1 Kings 14:24). “And he banished the perverted persons (Hebrew: “male temple prostitute”) from the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made” (1 Kings 15:12). “Then he tore down the *ritual* booths of the perverted persons (Hebrew: “male temple prostitute”) that *were* in the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the wooden image” (2 Kings 23:7).

8. In 1 Timothy 1:8-10, homosexuality is an example of lawless, insubordinate ungodliness *as are adulteries, liars, and other sin*. “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.”

Homosexuality is a sin. It is a disgusting, disgraceful, death-worthy evil that is an example of lawless, insubordinate ungodliness. In that regard, it is like other sins. Paul does not single out homosexuality as a special sin. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Paul says, “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.”

9. Romans 1:26-27 cast homosexuality in a different light. “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.” ... “Knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (Rom. 1:32). The Greek word translated “vile” means “to dishonor disgrace” and the one rendered “shameful” means “unbecoming.” Homosexuality is a disgraceful, shameful, unnatural sin worthy of death.

Adultery is also said to a different kind of sin. “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For ‘THE TWO,’ He says, ‘SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.’ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Cor. 6:15-20).

Paul is not saying that immorality is greater than other sins, but he is teaching that it is unique in its relationship to the body. Every other sin is a misuse of things or people. This sin is against the body as is not true of other sins. It is directed against the body. Covetousness, for example, is directed toward things. This sin, however, is in a special

category in its effects on the body. This sin is against the body in that it belongs to the Lord, and to sin against it is to defile what belongs to Him and defraud Him.

The great objection is people say, “but I was born this way; God made me this way.” The answer to that objection is that He made heterosexuals, but that does not mean they can fulfill that desire any way they want to. It’s a friend of mine who said, “What is does not mean what should be.” Suppose a pedophile said, “I was born that way?”

Someone text me an article from a newspaper in Colorado that said, “Using the same tactics used by the ‘gay’ rights activists, pedophiles have begun to seek similar status arguing their desire for children is a sexual orientation no different than heterosexuals or homosexuals.” The article went on to say, “in 1973, the American Psychiatric Association declassified homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. A group of psychiatrist with B4U-Act recently held a symposium proposing a new definition of pedophilia in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the Mental Health Disorder of the APA. B4U-Act calls pedophiles ‘minor-attracted people.’ The organization’s website states its purpose is to ‘help mental health professionals learn more about the attraction to minors and to consider the effects of stereotyping, stigma and fear.’ In 1998 the APA issued a report claiming “that the negative potential of adult sex with children was overstated and that the vast majority of both women went and reported no negative sexual effects from childhood sexual abuse experiences.” Late in the article, it said, “Earlier this year, two psychologists in Canada declared that pedophilia is a sexual orientation just like homosexuality and heterosexuality. Van Gijseghem, psychologist and retired professor from the University of Montréal, told members of Parliament, ‘pedophiles are not simply people who commit a small offense from time to time but rather are grappling with what is equivalent to a sexual orientation just like another individual may grapple with heterosexuality or even homosexuality. He went on to say, ‘true pedophiles have an exclusive reference to children, which is the same as having a sexual orientation. You cannot change a person’s sexual orientation. He may, however, remain abstinent.’ ... In July 2010, Harvard health Publications said, ‘pedophilia is a sexual orientation and unlikely to change. Treatment aims to enable someone to resist acting on his sexual urges.’”

## **Homosexuals will be Judged**

*God Judges* In Genesis 19, homosexuality is judged. The visitors called angels (Gen. 19:1), “struck the men who *were* at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary *trying* to find the door” (Gen. 19:11) and “Then the men said to Lot, ‘Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take *them* out of this place! For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it” (Gen. 19:12-13). The Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone” (Gen. 19:24).

10. “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” (Jude 7). Judgment on homosexuals is an example of God’s judgment on homosexuality.

*God gives them up* “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.” ... “Knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (Rom. 1:26-27, 32). The Greek word translated “vile” means “to dishonor disgrace” and the one rendered “shameful” means “unbecoming.” Homosexuality is a disgraceful, shameful, unnatural sin worthy of death that God judges by giving the people who commit it up to their sin.

We think, “People commits acts of homosexuality and God judges them.” Paul is saying, People depart from God and God give them up to homosexuality. Homosexuality is the punishment.

## Homosexuals can get saved

*Homosexuals can get saved* 11. First Corinthians 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.”

Christian homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**Summary:** The Bible teaches that homosexuality is a sin that God judges, but like all other sinners, homosexuals can be saved.

Some will say, “You are a homophobe.” I do not fear homosexuals. I fear God.

Some will say, “That is not politically correct!” Sometimes what is politically correct is morally wrong.

Some will say, “That is hate speech.” In the first place, God does not hate homosexuals (Jn. 3:16) and neither do people who believe the Bible. In the second place, it is not hate speech; it is free speech. When the Supreme Court passed the ruling on homosexual marriage, it said, “Finally, it must be emphasized that religions, and those who adhere to religious doctrines, may continue to advocate with utmost, sincere conviction that, by divine precepts, same-sex marriage should not be condoned. The First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach the principles that are so fulfilling and so central to their lives and faiths and to their own deep aspirations to continue the family structure they have long revered.”

I have the right to have a moral opinion that is not politically correct without being labeled a homophobe or speaking hate speech.

Suppose I was a policeman who stopped a speeder and the speedster said to me, “You are a speeder-phobe. Telling me, I am speeding is hate speech.” I would say, “I am a policeman who believes in the law.

How should Christians treat homosexuals? “I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet *I* certainly *did* not *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company

with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person. For what *have I to do* with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore ‘PUT AWAY FROM YOURSELVES THE EVIL PERSON’” (1 Cor. 5:9-13).

1. Do not judge unsaved homosexuals.
2. Discipline believers who commit sexual sins should be disciplined (1 Cor. 5:11), which means not keeping company with them (1 Cor. 5:9). That does not mean having no contact with them at all because Paul says, “admonish him [a believer under church discipline] as a brother” (1 Thess. 3:15).

Seen on a web page: “Yes, I am a Christian. I believe the Bible. I do not support homosexuality or homosexual marriage. Yes, I still love you. Yes, we are still friends. No, I am not judging you. No, I am not condemning you to hell. No, I will not let anyone bully you. But realize that name-calling and stereotyping those of us who stand for what we believe is exactly what you don’t want done to you. We have a right to speak what we believe, same as you have a right to speak what you believe.”

What about homosexual marriage? “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?’ And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE’” (Mt. 19:4-5).

When you leave the Lord’s definition, you open the door to all kinds of sexual activity.