

Tough Questions: What Is God's View On Homosexuality?

I. What The Bible Says

A. God's on-going Plan (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18, 22-24 cf. Mt. 19:4-6; Mk. 10:6-9; Eph. 5:31)

B. Homosexuality First Mentioned (Gen. 19)

C. The Old Testament Law (Lev. 18:22-25; 20:13-16)

- **Objection: why only point out this OT law? Are we then going to follow through with the verse and say that homosexuals should be killed?**
- **Note: important distinction between Ceremonial Law, Moral Law, and Judicial Law**

D. Jesus' View on Homosexuality

- **Objection: Jesus never said anything specifically about homosexuality in the Gospels**

1. He Affirmed the Old Testament (Mt. 5:17f)

2. He Affirmed the Old Testament View of Marriage (Mk. 10:1ff)

3. He Sent the Apostles with His Message

E. The Epistles

1. Rom. 1:18-32

2. 1 Cor. 6:9-10

3. 1 Tim. 1:8-10

4. 2 Pet. 2:4-10a

II. What The Church Must Do

A. Love

B. Listen

C. Lead to Christ

Discussion & Application:

1. Why is it important in the church to establish the “Canon of Scripture” prior to discussing moral issues in the world today? Are morals determined by the government or by a consensus of the voters?
2. Can you find a verse in the Bible that supports the idea that people were “born” homosexuals? Is homosexuality an identity issue or a behavior issue? Why did the terminology change in recent years from “sexual preference” to “sexual orientation”? What did that accomplish for the Gay Rights Movement?
3. What was God’s clear plan for sexual relationships according to Genesis 2? Did that continue to be God’s clear plan even after man’s fall in Genesis 3? Is there any Scripture that suggests God ever changed that plan?
4. Some have tried to say that the sin in Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen. 19) was either the sin of not showing hospitality or the sin of homosexual rape. They say this is different than a committed, monogamous homosexual relationship. How would you answer that?
5. What is the distinction between the various laws of God (Ceremonial, Moral, and Judicial)? Why is this important when discussing Old Testament passages about sexual sin?
6. Read Romans 1:18-32. What is the progression in man’s rebellion against God? What is God’s answer to that rebellion? It says three times that God “gave them over...” (v. 24, 26, 28) What are the three things that He gave them over to? What is the response of sinful man in v. 32? Are we seeing that in our culture today?
7. What is Paul’s argument against homosexuality in Romans 1? What do the words “natural” and “unnatural” mean? Would Paul agree with the current argument that people were “made” or “born” homosexuals?
8. What do you know about the city of Corinth in the time of the Apostle Paul? How difficult would it be for a Bible-believing Christian in a culture like that? According to 1 Cor. 6:9-10, can a person be a practicing homosexual and go to heaven? What other sins are listed in that text? Can a person follow Jesus AND practice sin (lifestyle) at the same time?
9. In 1 Timothy 1:8-10, Paul talks about the Old Testament Law. He summarizes the Ten Commandments. What does he do when he gets to the 7th commandment about adultery? Why does he mention fornication and homosexuality in a summary of the law against adultery?
10. How can we practically affirm a person’s dignity and worth as someone created in the image of God, and at the same time reject his or her beliefs and/or practices that are contrary to the Word of God?
11. What hope is there for people involved in sexual sins? (See 1 Tim. 1:8-17; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Titus 3:3-7)
12. What are you doing to develop greater sexual purity in your life? How are you appropriating God’s amazing grace to overcome sinful lusts and walk in holiness?