

The Bible and the Homosexuality Issue

Genesis 1:27-28

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Observations

- This issue has become one of the most politically charged themes of our lifetime
- There is a lot of animosity between segments of the homosexual community and many who represent the Christian understanding of sexuality
- The passion from both sides has risen to the level of being dismissive and demeaning
- We don't have to initially agree 100% on everything in order to gather together to worship God

Homosexuality is Not Just an Issue But About People!

- Most of us know or have worked with people who have same sex attraction or practice homosexuality
- Many of us have relatives who have same sex attraction
- When your child “comes out” in later life
- When your mother/father act out their same sex attraction
- Some of us live with same sex attraction temptations

What Does the Bible Say?

- Leviticus 18:22 “*You shall not lie with (have sexual relations with) a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.*”
- The word ***abomination*** means to loathe or detest
- Proverbs 6:16-19 says that there are seven things that are ***abominable*** (detestable) to God (Proud look, Lying tongue, Hands that murder innocent people, A heart that devises evil plans, Feet that race to do wrong, Liars, Troublemakers among family members)

Paul, in Romans 1, Describes Individuals Living Apart From God's Created Order (Verses 18, 21-22, 25-27, 29-32)

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

“....because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were they thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened...”

.. “who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen”

“...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...”



“...And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife.....”

*“.....deceit, evil-mindedness, they are whisperers,
backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud,
boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to
parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving,
unforgiving, unmerciful, who, 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.”

Observations

- Paul is showing us what the history of God's people suggests: that they had been warned to remain distinct from the prevailing ways of the cultures they were entering (Christians are Counter-culturalist)
- The Apostle sees the sobering results of his own people becoming lost to the warning's of God
- Sexual immorality is rooted in turning away from God's natural order of creation, Genesis chapters 1 and 2

Genesis 2:20-25 Describes God's Intentions

*After creating Adam and all of the animals,
“But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the
Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep;
and while he was sleeping, he took one of the
man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.
Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he
had taken out of man, and he brought her to the
man.”*



*The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and
flesh of my flesh; and she shall be called woman,
for she was taken out of man.”*

*That is why a man leaves his father and mother and
is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.”*

Framing the Argument

- What God was condemning in Romans 1 was not monogamous homosexual relationships between consenting adults (postulated)
- “The people Paul discussed weren’t really gay. That is what made it *unnatural*” (what then of murder, disobedient to parents, deceitful) If it comes *natural*, is it then alright? Nothing in scripture says that a certain sexual behavior is sin only if it is natural to do for some and not the rest of us
- What Paul argues against is mankind moving away from the fundamentally designed behavior God intended, Genesis chapters 1 and 2
- Verse 27 Paul condemns the practice of “leaving the natural use of the woman,” and “men with men”

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Another Argument Used

- Some argue that condemnation of Homosexuality might be understood as part of the Old Law. But Christ came to liberate us from such laws
- Old laws were nullified by Christ. (Colossians 2:12)
The New Testament is about love, inclusiveness and acceptance

Jesus Fulfilled the Ceremonial Laws But Also Instituted the Moral Law

- Remember John chapter 8, when a woman is caught in the act of adultery and was about to be stoned by her captors, as the civil law allowed, Jesus said, “*Let he who is without sin cast the first stone.*”
- Jesus rises above the civil law, but however He says to the woman, “*Go and sin no more*”
- **Therefore both Jesus and Paul, in the books of John and Romans, and even Moses in Leviticus refer to a standard of living righteously before God**

The Argument of Authenticity

- The argument is “This is just the way I am.”
- “I cannot deny that I am attracted to people of my same sex!”
- The answer: To be authentic (free to acknowledge have these feelings) is one thing, but it does not require us to act on them
- Otherwise we could legitimize every feeling we have (greed, anger, adultery, sexual attraction) to be lived out
- All of us have certain aspects of our biological and experiential make-up that shapes who we are and make us prone to certain temptations and activities.

“That’s Just the Way I Am”

Heart Disease

Genetic Factors

Cholesterol

Diabetes

Hypertension

Obesity

Family History

Behavioral Factors

Cholesterol

Diabetes

Smoking

Obesity

Hypertension

Exercise

Observations

- Who we are is a combination of **Nature and Nurture**
- What if my intense desires are to murder or steal
- Some argue (especially men) that men are not designed to be monogamous “it’s the dog in me!”
- The point is that **Desire** does not legitimize **Behavior**. Either it does or it does not. You can’t pick and choose where you want to apply that rational

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

“Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

“And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

- You were thieves but changed your behavior
- You were swindlers but changed your behavior
- You were liars but changed your behavior
- You preferred same sex relationships but changed your behavior

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38