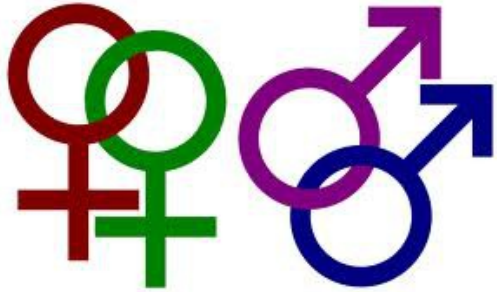


What the Bible Says About Homosexuality



Previous generations considered homosexuality deviant, unnatural behavior. It was not until 1975 that the American Psychological Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders and classified homosexuality as a normal variation of human sexuality. Why the change? There was a philosophical and moral shift in societal thinking.

Social leaders formerly accepted the premise that there are fixed moral laws of nature – “the Laws of Nature and Nature’s God.” People were expected to conform to their gender because it was considered self-evident that one’s biological makeup was determined by an authority external to himself – God and nature. Gender was never considered a choice. In the first chapter of the Bible, God ordained gender.

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
(Genesis 1:27)

As our society slowly moved from Theism to Secular Humanism, homosexuality became not only accepted but encouraged. In this new paradigm, man is the measure of all things. Man is a god unto himself, and human freedom is a chief moral principle. Therefore, it follows that a person should be free to choose his

own gender since gender is viewed as a random accident of biological chance. There is no God who planned for people to be born having a certain gender.

The homosexual movement is about personal liberty; and since freedom is the new basis for deciding right and wrong, homosexual activists are judged to be the new generation of civil rights leaders securing freedoms for the oppressed.

Educators are now teaching students that gender is a choice. Therefore, young people are urged to explore their sexual identity. No external gender standards are to be imposed. Mannerisms of the opposite sex are encouraged. This is a dramatic change from the classic belief that it is healthy for boys and girls to conform to their physical gender.

Of course this new philosophy of sexual choice puts homosexual temptation directly in the path of young people, especially during the emotionally turbulent teenage years when sexual identity is challenged. The result is a proliferation of adolescents claiming to be homosexual, bisexual, or sexually active heterosexual. When deviant passions are accepted as normal, the culture degrades.

It took at least two generations before the practical implications of secular humanism manifested itself in social morals. The first generation lives by the moral capital built up through centuries of Christianity. The second generation lives by personal preference. The sexual revolution has finally come into full bloom. One of the last holdouts – the law of gender – has finally been overthrown. All that remains is polygamy, legalized prostitution, incest, public nudity, pedophilia, and bestiality.

Is there any turning back? Yes, the homosexual movement will eventually collapse. Individuals and societies that abandon God’s law inevitably self-destruct. Out of the ashes arise conservative, God-fearing societies. Nations learn their lessons the hard way. The questions that remain are how long will the cycle take, and how many broken lives can be spared in the process?

Biblical Anthropology

The Bible describes homosexuality as the end result of an individual or society having abandoned God.

- * First, God’s truth is suppressed (Romans 1:18).
- * Second, the spiritual and moral vacuum is replaced with futile and foolish ideologies (Romans 1:21).
- * Third, the true view of God is exchanged for a distorted one (Romans 1:23).
- * Fourth, man and the creation are worshipped. (Romans 1:25)
- * Fifth, God no longer helps by restraining sin but gives them over to “the lusts of their hearts” and “impurity,” “degrading passions,” (homosexuality and lesbianism) and a “depraved mind (Romans 1:24-28).”

A key point is that people, in their lustful biases, are no longer able to think correctly.

For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.
(Romans 1:26-28)

The Example of Sodom

The Apostle Peter referred to the homosexuality practiced in the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah as “***the sensual conduct of unprincipled men*** (2 Peter 2:7).” To be “unprincipled” is to base one’s behavior on personal desires rather than on God’s higher law. Peter goes on to describe the sin of

homosexuality as rooted in disdain for God’s authority.

And especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not fear... reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed.
(2 Peter 2:10-12)

Freedom of choice is the philosophical foundation of homosexuality. The Apostle Peter understood this underpinning and warned that immoral people are actually “***promising others freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption*** (2 Peter 2:19).”

The Bible Condemns Homosexuality

You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination. *(Leviticus 18:22)*

Or 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 effeminate, nor homosexuals....
(1 Corinthians 6:9)

Homosexuality is best described as gender rebellion against God. As man rebels against each of God’s commandments, he also finds in himself a desire to rebel against gender.

Religious supporters of homosexuality avoid the direct prohibitions of Scripture by claiming God’s love and acceptance come above His law. Their argument is that God is not concerned with legal rules as long as people exercise love; after all, didn’t Jesus teach that love is the greatest commandment and that love is the fulfilling of the law?

Such arguments contradict the entire moral framework of Scripture. Because God is Love, the Law is given to keep men from destroying themselves. The Law of God is given to define what it means to live by love. If we truly love our neighbor, we will obey the specific laws of God. The Bible even denounces those who seek to use “love” as an excuse to break God’s law.

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. (1 John 5:2)

Do not think that I [Jesus] came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. (Matthew 5:17)

According to Humanism's philosophical basis for morals, it is inconceivable that God would make any distinctions based upon gender.

Why does God's Word prohibit two people of the same gender from loving each other through sexual intimacy or marriage? A case can be made for the emotional and psychological differences between men and women; a case can be made for the natural means of bearing children; and a case can be made for the spiritual values taught through traditional gender roles. However, the ultimate answer for any moral law is beyond man's ability to comprehend. In giving the Law, God did give some reasons; but in the end, men were to accept the Law by faith.

There is nothing anti-intellectual, shameful, or unjust in stating that homosexuality is wrong because there is a God who has revealed His will in written and natural law. Man can receive truth from a source external to Himself.

Social and Genetic Factors

Scientists and sociologists have investigated the possibility that homosexuality is biological – as if there were a “gay gene”. To date, there is no scientific evidence that homosexuals are in any way physically different than heterosexuals. Social upbringing is the dominant factor. Homosexuality is a learned behavior that may become so ingrained that it appears genetic.

Homosexual tendencies typically occur when a son does not have a positive, active male role model. Spending more time with his mother, he will begin to identify sexually with women and even display feminine mannerisms; yet he still longs for the male companionship of his father. This opens the door to homosexual desires. The same holds true for girls with detached mothers.

Since there will always be dysfunctional parents, there will always be a small percentage of the population struggling with homosexual attraction. However, the social upbringing factor does not justify wrong behavior, but it reminds us to have more patience and compassion toward those struggling with gender identity. As in all moral failures, people should be encouraged to overcome learned deviance. The greatest offense to God is not misguided young people, but social leaders who justify and encourage homosexual behavior out of an anti-God philosophy of life.

A common homosexual argument is “I was born this way.” The underlying premise is that if homosexuality is not a choice, then the homosexual is not responsible for his behavior, nor does he have to change. Homosexuality is no more a choice than skin color. By this logic, homosexual activists have attached themselves to the civil rights movement.

Christian theologians would actually agree – in part; a man or woman might be born with a penchant for certain sins such as stealing, lying, violence, lust, or even homosexuality. Nevertheless, the Gospel message is that we are born with a fallen nature and must change our ways. Man is responsible to recognize his corruption and come to God for divine deliverance. We can, and must change the way we are. This is the radical message of Jesus Christ.

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins... Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest... but God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved). (Ephesians 2:1, 3-5)

While Humanism teaches that man's inner desires are the good results of natural selection, the Bible teaches that man was made in the image of God and then fell into sin. Man's soul became corrupt, and the image of God was distorted. What a person believes about origins determines how he responds to his inner passions. Basic Christianity teaches that man must

fight his sinful lusts, even his very nature; but having abandoned this core belief, social leaders are encouraging the next generation to accept their depravity.

The New Birth

Coming to God is a decision to agree with God and to allow Him to make you into a different man. The cry that brings salvation is “God, be merciful to me, the sinner (Luke 18:13).” It is a decision to abandon self and to embrace a holy God. When a man decides for Jesus Christ, God causes him to be born again, converted, and transformed.

Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)

Most people are disinterested in conversion, for they are very content with their own desires. The majority of the world will continue to say that a man does not need to conform to anyone, or anything, outside of himself. If you feel this way, then you are part of the world; and you will take your stand with the world against God. But if you hunger and thirst after righteousness, then you are ready to become one of God's children.

The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:17)

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (1 John 3:1)

Why Change?

* It is right for a man to obey his Creator. Beyond this we should remember that God will judge sin.

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For

the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (Galatians 6:7-8)

* The gay life is not gay. When a man gives himself over to the lusts of the flesh, he descends into greater depravity. All of the deeds of the flesh are practiced because they are a single package.

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)

* The “straight” life is the good life. Jesus came to give abundant life to those who come to Him in faith and repentance.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

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