

The Sin of Homosexuality

It's been called a variety of names in order to dull its sinfulness. Some talk about people as being "gay." The other day I heard a man refer to himself as a "same gender loving man." Society can assign any number of euphemisms to it, but the fact is that homosexuality is a sin and those who live in this or any other sin cannot go to heaven (Romans 6:2). For the purpose of clarity this article will not misuse a perfectly good word like "gay" or in any other way try to sugar coat this horrible sin.

To find the first Bible record of the sin of homosexuality we have to go to Genesis 19. We can't find it in the first two chapters of Genesis because in the beginning God created the man and then the woman and gave instruction to them regarding a physical relationship between each other (Genesis 1:28; 2:18-24). Before sin came into the world, God's human creation was given the privilege of sexual relations between a man and a woman joined to one another in the eyes of God. After sin came into the world, God continued to sanction the male-female sexual relationship in marriage (Genesis 4:17). It wasn't until mankind perverted God's plan that homosexuality was introduced.

Homosexuality is condemned in the Word of God. In Romans 1:18-32 the apostle Paul writes regarding a number of sins that were prevalent in his day and still exist in ours. Among Paul's statements is this one: "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." (Romans 1:26-27). Verse 28 explains what was behind these vile actions. "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge..."

There are several key words in these verses that demonstrate that homosexuality is the subject and that it is categorized as sinful in the eyes of God. All definitions come from [A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament](#) by Joseph Henry Thayer. "Vile" means "dishonorable, disgraceful." "Affections" in a negative sense as it is used here means "passion." Taken together we see these individuals of whom Paul writes engaging in depraved passions or base lusts. That's how the description of these individuals begins. More detail is given, first regarding the women and then the men. The women changed ("from one thing into another") the natural ("inborn, agreeable to nature") use ("the sexual use of a woman") into that which was against or contrary to nature ("laws, order of nature"). Women engaged in sexual relations with other women. The men went away from the natural use (same as the previous verse; "inborn, agreeable to nature sexual use of a woman") and burned in their lust for other men, working that which is unseemly or shameful. Men engaged in sexual relations with men. They had reprobate ("castaway, rejected") minds and did those things that were not convenient ("unfit").

In I Corinthians 6:9-10 Paul writes, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." Among those who, due to their sin, will not inherit the kingdom of God are the effeminate ("of a boy kept for homosexual relations with a man, a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness") and abusers of themselves with mankind ("one who lies with a male as with a female, sodomite, homosexual"). The latter term is also used in I Timothy 1:10 where it is translated "them that defile themselves with mankind." In that context homosexuality is said to be "contrary to sound doctrine."

It's interesting that some, in their attempt to downplay the sinfulness of homosexuality, have tried to say that it's no worse than an unmarried man and unmarried woman engaging in sexual relations. It's really pointless to get into a game of comparing the filthiness of one sin to another. Both in this case constitute fornication and bring about the wrath of God if left unrepented (Colossians 3:6). Sexual immorality is sexual immorality. God sanctioned sexual relations between a husband (a man) and his wife (a woman) and no one else (Hebrews 13:4).

Those who live in the sin of homosexuality were not born that way. Homosexuality is condemned by God. If homosexuals are born that way then God created them in a sinful state. However, God has

made man upright (Ecclesiastes 7:29), which means humans are not born in a sinful condition. The rest of Ecclesiastes 7:29 explains how people turn to sin, including homosexuality. "But they have sought out many inventions."

That a homosexual can change from his prurient lifestyle is evident from I Corinthians 6:11. Go back and read verses 10 and 11 which were earlier discussed. Verse 11 says, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God." The individuals cited in verses 10 and 11, including the homosexuals, were people who had engaged in sin but had repented and obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They changed. They had been those things mentioned but they weren't those anymore. We cannot imagine that they continued to live as homosexuals after becoming Christians any more than we can imagine the idolaters kept worshipping idols, the thieves kept stealing and the drunkards kept imbibing with God's approval.

Homosexuals need to give up their sinful ways and obey God. Christians need to strive to lead all men and women to the Lord and encourage them to live in purity all of their days.

Mike Gifford
Gifford7777@yahoo.com