

A Positive Look at Homosexuality and the Bible

What is a Homosexual?

Many people are tripped up on the sexual part of the word Homosexual. Sexual attraction to a person of the same gender is only one small part of what it means to be a Gay or Lesbian person. It also means that the deepest sense of love, friendship, social interest, and emotional connection is directed toward someone who is of the same gender. This was not a concept that was understood very well in Biblical times.

Bible verses commonly used against Homosexuals

Genesis 2:7-25

The argument: **“God did not Create Adam and Steve, God created Adam and Eve!”** This perspective ignores an important principle of Bible interpretation - **context**. The Genesis account is a creation story that was to describe how the Human race got here and how the genealogy began. The first couple had to be Heterosexual and fertile. It is an assumption to consider that God intended this to be the norm for all sexual relationship into the future. If that were the case, then even childless marriages and celibacy would be sinful.

Genesis 19:1-28

The argument: **“The sin that brought judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah was Homosexuality.”** This argument is easiest to address if you simply look at other verses that talk about Sodom and Gomorrah. Specifically, **Ezekiel 16:48-50** says, **“Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom. She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things in my sight.”** Other Scriptures to study - Isaiah 1:10-17 and 3:9; Jeremiah 23:14; Zephaniah 2:8-11 and Matthew 10:5-15.

Leviticus 20:13

“If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death;.” Leviticus is a part of the Jewish law which Jesus fulfilled. As a result, it does not apply to Christians. Additionally, according to Christ Himself, a person who lives by the law must keep all of it **perfectly**...something no one except Jesus has been able to do. Christians who use this verse to identify sin, yet ignore others, such as the prohibition of planting two kinds of seed in a field, (19:19), eating shellfish and wearing garments of mixed fabrics, (19:26), are using the Bible in a self-serving, uneven manner.

The New Testament teaches that we are not saved by the **Law** but by **Grace (Ephesians 2:8-9)**. The entire book of Galatians was written to address those who wished to teach a Gospel of works. In fact, one of the strongest condemnations in the Bible is directed to those who taught a Gospel of works (**Galatians 1:8**) **instead of Grace**. The **whole** witness of Scripture is that the only way we can stand ‘right with God’ (Righteousness) is accomplished by **faith** alone.

“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to **all** who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God., and are justified freely by **His Grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:22-24).

Romans 1:18-32

The argument: **“Romans describes God’s wrath toward Homosexuality.”**

Once again, it is **essential** to consider the **context** of all Biblical scripture, and Roman 1 is no exception. Specifically, these verses condemn sexual acts of ritual prostitution that were connected with the rampant idolatry that occurred during Paul’s day. **“Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles” (1:22-23).**

Today it is hard to imagine a culture where orgies conducted in front of idols would be a part of worship. However, that was in fact a common practice at the time Romans was written. Additionally, there was little concept of a committed, love relationship between persons of the same gender – which is natural for someone who is Lesbian or Gay. In reality, an opposite gender relationship would be just as unnatural for a Lesbian or Gay person as it would be for a Heterosexual to commit the same gender sexual acts described in Romans 1. Beyond all of this, to look at the message of the whole book of Romans and identify one group of people as a special category of sinners is missing the point, for “...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...” That is why we all need the Grace to which Paul so clearly points.

“I Corinthians 6:9 and I Timothy 1:10 refers to Homosexuality.”

First, it is helpful to understand that “Homosexuality” is a clinical term from psychiatry that was first used in the late 1800’s. It refers to a concept that was unknown in the first century when this part of the Bible was written. Therefore, if it occurs in a translation almost 2000 years later, it **cannot** have the same meaning. The definitions of the words that have been translated as “Homosexual” are as follows:

The Greek word *Malkos literally means, “soft.” It is also used in Luke 7:25 and Matthew 11:8 in reference to John the Baptist’s clothes. The word Malkos was used historically to describe, “Self-indulgent” people. (*Note Strong’s Concordance Greek # 3120)

The other Greek word *Arsenokotai (#733 Strong’s) literally, “male bed,” was used rarely in history but was translated as “male prostitute” until the fourth century. It is a word lost in antiquity, so no one with certainty can translate Arsenokotai at this time. Additionally, since the word *Sodomite (#6945 Strong’s – Hebrew) meant “sacred person”, references to it strongly indicate the sexual acts done in the context of the rampant idol worship of the day.

“What about the reference in Jude verse 7?”

This is the only reference that connects Sodom and Gomorrah to **anything sexual**. Some teachers think this refers to a kind of gang rape commonly used in ancient times to humiliate strangers visiting a city.

Other Jewish traditions teach that, like in Genesis 6:1-3, the **women** of Sodom also wanted to have intercourse with the Angels. (Check out **“men”** in Genesis 19:4 – Strong’s Concordance #582 this word is also translated as **mortals**.)

Good News for Gay and Lesbian People

Many people are unaware that there are any **positive** promises in Scripture for sexual minorities. There are! Here are some important verses to think about!

“To the Eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, who chose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant – to them I will give within My temple and its walls memorial and a name better than that of sons and daughters” (Isaiah 56:4-5).

Eunuchs are a type of people who do not necessarily live as traditional, child bearing, Heterosexuals.

Many Christians say that being LGBT is a choice. Nevertheless, **Jesus Christ** recognized a group of people who were **born different**.

“For some are Eunuchs because they were born that way....”
Matthew 19:12

If you have an honest conversation with most LGBT people, they’ll tell you that they have known they were different for as long as they can remember – and if they were in the Church they often went to great lengths to attempt to hide the truth and be Heterosexual.

Many have tried Christian psychotherapy, Bible study, fasting, prayer, shock treatments, denial, Ex-Gay ministries, memorizing long portions of the Bible, Heterosexual marriage and many other methods to change. However, most came to realize that praying to change from their sexuality is like praying to change their eye color...it is a part of who they are.

So, what does it all mean?

Unfortunately, and often with the best intentions, it means that many spiritually destructive teachings have been used in the Church. Sadly, these are often so hurtful that many LGBT people have stayed away from God and their rightful relationship with Him.

In Acts 10, there was another much-despised group waiting for God's grace to be revealed. They were called the Gentiles and they were every bit as despised by Jewish culture as Gay people are by some mainline Churches.

The Apostle Peter was sent to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, even though it was against Jewish law to enter their homes. Because God had confirmed this supernaturally, Peter obeyed God and did go to the Gentile's home (Acts 10:9-29). Peter's conclusion was, "**God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean**" (vs. 28).

And then God confirmed Peter's mission by pouring out the Holy Spirit on the Gentiles in the same way He had been poured out on the Jews on the day of Pentecost (vs. 44-48).

What to do?

Let God open the eyes of your heart! **YOU CAN BE CHRISTIAN AND GAY!** God loves you! God created you to be an LGBT person and provided salvation through the shed blood of His Son Jesus Christ just as He did for everyone else. **Believe** the truth of **God** and not the destructive teachings offered in some Churches.

If you're a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender person who has never invited Jesus Christ into your life or someone who once walked with God, but was turned away and rejected - there is **Good News** for you. "**For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**"
John 3:16

Just pray this simple prayer...."**Jesus Christ, I believe that you are the Son of God, and that you died for my sins. I invite you into my life. Forgive all of my sins and come into my heart. Amen.**"

Finally, though there are only a handful of scriptures used against LGBT people, it is a big topic, and we've only scratched the surface here. For more information, go to the website below and download the free MP3, which provides a more detailed discussion of these scriptures.

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Freedom In Christ Evangelical Church of San Francisco began with a simple vision...to minister as a part of the LGBT community with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Begun in 1991, FIC is a dynamic ministry within the community.

If you are looking for an evangelical, charismatic church, that is gay affirming and that believes and preaches the Word of God look no further. We are a people who love God and are called by God to be a lighthouse in San Francisco

The message of God's love and of the Gospel of Jesus Christ must be shared with our community. If you feel you can no longer attend your former church, or want to develop your relationship with God, please know that He is calling you back to Him. He really is awesome and has been doing a great work in our community. If you do not have a church home, come and visit us and see for yourself what God is doing.



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