

WHAT IS HOMOSEXUALITY?

“Homosexuality is a persistent preoccupation with erotic encounters involving members of the same sex, which may or may not be acted out with another person. Put another way, it is making deliberate plans to entertain and cooperate in sexual fantasies or behaviors with someone of the same sex.”¹

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT SEX?

Sex is for Marriage

Hebrews 13:4 says “*Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge*” (NASB). In this verse the writer is extolling the virtues of marriage and revealing that those who are involved in illicit sexual relationship will be judged by God. This verse refers to sex between a heterosexual couple and says “the bed is undefiled.” This means that sex within the marriage is ordained by God and is beautiful, gratifying and fulfilling.

Sex is for Enjoyment in Marriage

Proverbs 5:18-20 speaks of sex between a husband and wife. “*Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth. As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love. For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress.*” Solomon lets us know that a man and a woman should have their sexual needs fulfilled within marriage. The husband and wife should enjoy each other’s body parts and the distinct differences God endowed them with.

Sex is for Procreation in Marriage

After the creation of the man and women God commanded them “*to be fruitful and multiply.*”(Gen. 1:27-28). This means they were to have children and increase in number. God created them with different reproductive body organs for the purpose of producing offspring and two individuals of the same sex cannot fulfill this purpose.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY?

Homosexuality Was One of the Sins of Sodom

According to Ezekiel 16:49-50, two of the sins that moved God to destroy Sodom were pride and their failure to take care of the poor and needy. Another sin present in Sodom was homosexuality. When Lot had two angels come to give him the news about the destruction of the city, some of the men in the city thought the angels were men and wanted to have a homosexual encounter with them (Gen. 19:1-11). God called this an “exceeding evil” (Gen. 18:20).

The Homosexual Rebuttal. The sin of the men of Sodom was not homosexuality but inhospitality and their desire to mistreat Lot’s visitors.

The Rebuttal of the Homosexual Interpretation. If the sin was inhospitality, why did Lot respond to the men of the city by offering his daughters to them for sexual purposes (Gen. 19:7-8).

God Told Moses It Is Detestable for Two Men to Lie Together

“*Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman, that is detestable*” (Lev. 18:22).

“*If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be*

put to death; their blood will be on their own heads” (Lev. 20:13).

The Homosexual Interpretation. These condemnations, along with other laws, in the Torah are only applicable to ancient Israel and are not to be kept by Christians.

The Rebuttal of the Homosexual Interpretation. In the law, there were civil, moral, and ceremonial laws. Many of the civil and ceremonial laws were done away with in the New Testament. However, the moral laws are applicable to all societies and generations (incest, adultery, homosexuality, etc.).

Homosexuality Goes against the Natural Use of the Body

“*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,” (Rom. 1:26-28).

The Homosexual Interpretation. Paul is addressing idolatry in this passage and these verses are referring to homosexual temple prostitution. This is not referring to same-sex lovers. Other interpretations say that Paul is referring to heterosexuals who practice homosexuality. Homosexuality is not unnatural for the homosexual.

The Rebuttal of the Homosexual Interpretation. Paul’s understanding of the natural use of the body would be in a heterosexual relationship (see 1 Corinthians 7). Therefore when he speaks of abandoning the natural function of the man and the woman he is referring to homosexuality.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES USED BY HOMOSEXUALS

David and Jonathan Shared a Homosexual Relationship

"I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women." (2 Sam. 1:26).

The Homosexual Interpretation. The strong love between David and Jonathan indicates they were in a homosexual relationship.

The Rebuttal of the Homosexual

Interpretation. The Bible does not indicate that the relationship between David and Jonathan was anything more than them just being friends. As a matter of fact David was married and had several wives.

Ruth and Naomi Shared a Homosexual Relationship

"And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: ¹⁷Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me" (Ruth 1:16-17).

The Homosexual Interpretation. The strong language between Ruth and Naomi reflected their lesbian relationship.

The Rebuttal of the Homosexual

Interpretation. Ruth was Naomi's daughter-in-law and they were both married until their husbands died (Ruth 1:1-5). Also, Ruth eventually married Boaz (Ruth 4:13).

Jesus Did Not Condemn Homosexual Relationships

The Homosexual Interpretation. There is no record in the Bible of Jesus condemning homosexuality.

The Rebuttal of the Homosexual

Interpretation. There are many subjects that Jesus did not condemn but that does not mean that they are alright. Jesus did not condemn incest and drunkenness but that does not mean that it is alright to do them.

CONCLUSION

There are some individuals who have homosexual desires or gay love for another person. As long as these desires are not acted upon sexually, the person has not committed a sin. The Bible is clear that it is a sin whenever acts of homosexuality are carried out. First, sex is for marriage and any acts of sex outside of marriage is called fornication (1 Cor. 6:13-18; 1 Thes. 4:3). Second, God created men and women with different reproductive body parts which are designed for intimacy with the opposite sex (Prov. 5:18-20). When two people of the same sex engage in intercourse, this is abandoning the natural use of the body (Rom. 1:26-28).

¹ Jeff Olson, "When Passions Are Confused" (Grand Rapids: RBC Ministries), p. 3.

THE BIBLE AND HOMOSEXUALITY



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