

THE BIBLE ON HOMOSEXUALITY

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While the United States has become more open to homosexuality, few seem to consider whether homosexuality is acceptable to God. Our leaders talk about America making great strides forward as we become more tolerant of the homosexual community. Some even disguise their support of homosexuality by saying that God loves everyone and therefore God accepts homosexuality and we must be open to it also.

The problem with this reasoning is their failure to understand what the Bible teaches on the subject of homosexuality. Also, they fail to understand that God's love for someone does not mean that God is going to accept their sinful situation. It is true that God loves the world (John 3:16) and desires the salvation of everyone (Luke 19:10). However, we must keep in mind that it is those who obey God who will be saved (Matthew 7:21; Revelation 22:14). God loves everyone from the rapist to the liar; from the murderer to the gossip; but, he condemns all of these things because they are sinful (Galatians 5:19-21 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). When we obey God, we will be saved (Romans 6:16-18).

How does this apply to homosexuality? The Bible shows us clearly that homosexuality is condemned by God and the homosexual must cease his or her immoral practice in order to be saved. Let us examine the Bible's teaching on homosexuality.

In the Bible, there are several expressions that refer to homosexual activity. Sodomite, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, etc. are used to describe this sin. Please note the following passages of scripture (emphasis mine, c.c.).

1. There were to be no sodomites in the land. *"There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel"* (Deuteronomy 23:17).
2. When Israel allowed the sodomites in the land, they stood condemned before God, and part of the moral cleansing of the land was to remove the sodomites from the land.
 - a. *"And there were sodomites in the land: and **they did according to all the abominations of the nations** which the Lord cast out before the children of Israel"* (1 Kings 14:24)
 - b. *"And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made"* (1 Kings 15:12)
 - c. *"And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land"* (1 Kings 22:46)
 - d. *"And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the Lord, where the women made hangings for the grove"* (2 Kings 23:7)
3. Homosexuality was one of the sins of Gibeah (Judges 19:22) and Sodom (Genesis 19:5). In both of these passages, the expression "that we may know" means to have sexual

relations with that person. In both cases, it was the men of the city who wanted to have sexual relations with another man.

4. Effeminate, a word that entails a man having sexual relations with a boy, is condemned in 1 Corinthians 6:9.
5. Also, in 1 Corinthians 6:9, the phrase “abusers of themselves with mankind” is a sodomite in the original language. Both the effeminate and the abusers of themselves with mankind will not inherit the kingdom of God. An interesting contrast is made in 1 Corinthians 6:11 when Paul reminds them that “such were some of you”. That is, they are no longer homosexuals.
6. No clearer condemnation of homosexuality can be found that what is shown in the following passages of scripture.
 - a. *“Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: **it is abomination**”* (Leviticus 18:22)
 - b. *“If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with womankind, **both of them have committed an abomination**: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them”* (Leviticus 20:13)
 - c. *“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through **the lusts of their own hearts**, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: **who changed the truth of God into a lie**, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 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 **recompense of their error** which was meet. **And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge**, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient”* (Romans 1:24-28)

Homosexuality, even if you call it gay or lesbian or alternate lifestyle, will always be condemned by God, and those who practice such are lost eternally. It is our desire that the homosexual repent and cease his or her immorality. We want to study with you so all can be saved by their obedience to God’s word.

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