

The Bible and Homosexuality

-by Gary T. Panell

God says, in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; "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 homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."

Notice that in order to be saved these people had to be "washed" from these sins and be saved by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, God loves homosexuals, but He hates their sin. The Bible teaches that a person has to repent of their sin in order to be saved. "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." Acts 17: 30-31

How does God feel about what homosexuals are doing? The New Testament gives this answer very clearly in Romans 1:26-27, where it

explains: "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature."

"Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due." Is it any wonder that a person can destroy their own immune system with a life style such as this?

Many homosexuals contract AIDS through their life style. Barring a miraculous healing AIDS is always fatal. But then sin always has fatal consequences because the Bible says: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23. Some people teach that there are those who are born with a bent to homosexuality. This is an attempt to excuse their actions by saying, "I just can't help myself because God made me this way."

During the 2004 presidential election, President George Bush was asked this question, "Is homosexuality a choice?" He answered, "I don't know." Well, the Bible does have an answer. Yes, I know that some people teach that a person is born with a genetic disposition toward homosexuality. And I also know that children that are raised by homosexuals are going to be influenced by that life-style, however, the Bible says that they still do have a choice, and that they are without excuse if they choose to be homosexuals.

You might say, "The Bible is old fashioned and we don't believe it anyway." You may not believe that the law of gravity is real, but if you test it by jumping off of a cliff, you will find that it is very much a law. It is not what we say or think that is important, but what God says is! When we break the laws of God, we will find that they also have consequences.

You might wonder, how can God say he loves sinners if He judges sinners? God does love sinners, but He hates sin. What kind of God would He be if he allowed sin to go unpunished? Some would say, "What is so bad about two women or two men 'in love' with each other?"

The problem is it is not the way God commanded it to be, look at Genesis 1: 26-28, "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth...' Two women or two men living together as "mates" do not show forth the image of God. It takes both the man and the woman to show God's characteristics. Second, it is impossible for two women or two men to reproduce (be fruitful and multiply).

The creation account is very clear as to what God intended: "And the LORD God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.'... So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam

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there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and brought her to the man. And Adam said: 'This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:18, 21-25

Two women or two men living together as "husband and wife" are living a lie. Satan has deceived them into thinking they are living the "good life," in reality they are slaves to Satan. They will never be truly happy until they obey God's Word.

If God made people this way, why would they have to be washed from homosexuality as Paul said in the book of Corinthians? Yes, we all have been born with a bent to sin, but it is not because of what God did to us, it is as a result of Adam and Eve's sin that has been passed down to us. Romans 3:23 reminds us... "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," but aren't you glad that God loves us and does not leave us to wallow in our sin but gives us the good news of John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." You too can receive Christ as personal Lord and Savior by repenting of your sin and by turning to Christ to save you.

Is this what you want, a new start in life? You can have it with the change of your heart in repentance (turning from sin) and by turning to Christ for forgiveness and salvation. Will you pray right now and ask Christ to come into your heart and life? You could pray a prayer like this: "God I repent of my sin. I believe that Jesus Christ is truly your Son born of the Virgin Mary. I believe that He died on the cross for my sin, and rose again the third day. Right now I want Jesus to come into my heart and save me from my sin. In Jesus name amen."

If you prayed that prayer and really meant it, you have become a child of God. Now you will need to find a good Bible believing Church to attend. You will need to be baptized, as a witness to others of your salvation. You will need to read your Bible and pray daily for victory.

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