

Overview: The practice of homosexuality is becoming more and more accepted in our society. The Bible definitively and unmistakably shows it as sinful. We should treat homosexuals not as untouchables, but as those who need God's love, just like we'd treat someone involved in fornication or adultery.

Outline:

I. What the Bible says about homosexual behavior

- a. It is detestable to God. (Lev. 18:22)
- b. In OT law it was a grave sin—punishable by death. (Lev. 20:13)
- c. It is clearly referred to as wrong in the NT. (Rom. 1:24-28; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)
- d. Jesus referred to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as a historical event. (Matt. 10:15)
- e. It is shameful and unnatural (Rom. 1:26)
- f. It involves indecent behavior (Rom. 1:27)

II. Common arguments for it

- a. The word “homosexual” is not in the Bible.
 - i. The actual word homosexual is not in some translations of the Bible, but homosexuality clearly is in the Bible. The word *is* used in the NAS, NIV, NKJ, NLT, and TLB.
- b. We don't follow other Old Testament laws
 - i. Homosexuality is also wrong according to the New Testament.
 - ii. Some laws were cultural, others were not. The context of the verses on homosexuality show that they were not culturally based.
 - iii. The Apostles said that sexual immorality is supposed to be avoided even in the new covenant. (Acts 15:29; 21:25)
- c. Inhospitability vs. homosexuality.
 - i. Some say that Jesus' reference to Sodom and Gomorrah shows that those cities were really destroyed for inhospitability.
 - ii. In fact, in Matthew 10:14-16 you can see that Jesus was not comparing the sins of the inhospitable people with the sins of Sodom. Instead, he was comparing the levels of culpability and judgment.
 - iii. The punishment was clearly for sexual sin. (Jude 1:7-8)
- d. It is natural, and can't be helped
 - i. Our sins are conditions of the heart, not of the physical body (Mark 7:20-23)
 - ii. Changes in the brain do not show which came first—the condition or the behavior. Significant life choices are bound to result in physical change in the human body.
 - iii. Even if some people have a disposition that way, it does not make it okay. We all

have a disposition to sin. Many men have a disposition toward immorality. Those predispositions do not make us free to sin or commit sexual immorality.

- iv. See 1991 Bailey & Pillard twin study – 52% for monozygotic (identical) and 22% for dizygotic (fraternal).

e. Some animals exhibit homosexual behavior

- i. Some animals eat their young. That does not make it *moral* for humans to do.

f. It doesn't hurt anyone

- i. You could say the same thing about having other gods, making idols, and coveting, but they are still wrong in God's eyes.
- ii. Usually when we break God's laws someone gets hurt. Think about guilt, broken relationships, family members, friends, and etc. Many people get hurt.

g. You can't legislate morality

Sure you can. Consider laws on polygamy, sex with children, bestiality, murder, etc...

III. What the Bible says about marriage

- a. Gender was established by God (Gen. 1:27)
- b. Marriage is the uniting of male and female for life (Matt. 19:4)
- c. One purpose of marriage is offspring (Gen. 1:28; 9:1,7; Mal. 2:15)

IV. How we should treat homosexuals?

- a. In love (Matt. 5:46; James 2:1-8; 1 John 3:18)
- b. As forgivable (1 Cor. 6:9-11)
- c. No different than you would treat someone engrossed in any other sexual sin
- d. As those who need God's grace and salvation
Jude 22-23 Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear-hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

Conclusion:

The inescapable conclusion is that practicing homosexuality is an abomination to God. Homosexuals need to be loved and told of the forgiveness that comes from our Lord and Savior.

Supporting Material

Verses:

Leviticus 18:22 “Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.” NIV

Leviticus 20:13 “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.” NIV

Deuteronomy 23:17 “No prostitutes are permitted in Israel, either men or women; you must not bring to the Lord any offering from the earnings of a prostitute or a homosexual, for both are detestable to the Lord your God.” TLB

1 Kings 14:24 There was homosexuality throughout the land, and the people of Judah became as depraved as the heathen nations which the Lord drove out to make room for his people. TLB

Romans 1:24-28 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. ²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. ²⁸Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. NIV

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders... ¹¹And that is what some of you were... NIV

1 Timothy 1:9-10 ...that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers ¹⁰and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, NASU

Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 19:4-7 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom — both young and old — surrounded the house. ⁵They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.” ⁶Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him ⁷and said, “No, my friends. Don’t do this wicked thing.”

Genesis 19:13 [The angels said to Lot,] “We are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it.” NIV

Genesis 19:24 Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah — from the LORD out of the heavens. NIV

Jude 1:7-8 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. ⁸In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. NIV

NASU: ...indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh...

Matthew 10:14-16 [When Jesus sent out the Twelve he said,] “If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. ¹⁵I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.” NIV

A Levite and His Concubine

Judges 19:22 While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they shouted to the old man who owned the house, “Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him.” NIV

Purposes of Marriage

Genesis 1:27-28 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.” NIV

Genesis 9:1 Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.” NIV

Malachi 2:15 Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. NIV

Matthew 19:4-6 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” NIV

Sexual Immorality

Acts 15:28-29 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: ²⁹You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. NIV

1 Corinthians 6:13-20 The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take

the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. NIV

Mark 7:20-23 He went on: “What comes out of a man is what makes him ‘unclean.’ ²¹For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery... ²³All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean.’” NIV

Quotes:

We have a society which is psychiatrized in the same sense in which medieval European society was Christianized, religionized—everything was a matter of religion. Now everything is a matter of psychiatry, from homosexuality, to heroin, to murder.

Thomas Szasz

Leadership, Vol. 4, no. 4.

Self-fulfillment soon grows into a quest for self-indulgence with a vocabulary of I, Me, Mine and self-indulgence, in turn, soon becomes unbridled. The self-indulgent pursuit of pleasure embraces tolerance of homosexuality, addiction to eroticism, addiction to drugs and alcohol, habitual divorce, vandalism and lawlessness. Thus liberty becomes libertinism. It is a dictatorship of permissiveness which enslaves its citizens, a dictatorship whose decrees are endlessly purveyed by the media.

Kitty Muggeridge in *Gazing on Truth. Christianity Today, Vol. 34, no. 11.*

I think we are now living in the very decade when God may thunder his awesome “paradidomai” (I abandon, or I give [them] up) (Rom. 1:24 ff.) over America’s professed greatness. Our massacre of a million fetuses a year; our deliberate flight from the monogamous family; our normalizing of fornication and of homosexuality and other sexual perversions; our programming of self-indulgence above social and familial concerns—all represent a quantum leap in moral deterioration, a leap more awesome than even the supposed qualitative gulf between conventional weapons and nuclear missiles. Our nation has all but tripped the worst ratings on God’s Richter scale of fully deserved moral judgment.

Carl F.H. Henry,

The Christian Century (Nov. 5, 1980). Christianity Today, Vol. 30, no. 8.