

THE BIBLE AND HOMOSEXUALITY

by Robert Jarvis

What God Said In The Old Testament:

Leviticus 18:22-24: *Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. 23 Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion. 24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:*

-It was just as wicked to commit acts of homosexuality as it was to lie with a beast.

Leviticus 20:13: *If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.*

-It was such a serious sin that God commanded those who were guilty of it to be put to death.

Many will argue that these passages speak of those who are under the law, and then they will say that we are no longer under the law. The truth is that Christ did away with the ceremonial law when He came, but God's moral law is still in effect today. Lying, stealing, adultery, homosexuality, etc. are all still sins. In fact, in some sense, we are under a higher law today than they were in the Old Testament. Jesus said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, *Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*" (Matthew 5:27-28) In the Old Testament, one was found guilty of adultery in committing the act. In the New Testament, Jesus lets us know that adultery can occur in the heart without the actual act.

Another point is that God condemned Sodom and Gomorrah and burned them to the ground for their homosexuality. This event is described in Genesis chapter 19. God said, "*the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly*" (Genesis 13:13). Some have said that it was not homosexuality that God destroyed Sodom for, but that it was something else. The Bible makes it clear in Jude vs. 7: *Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.* There sin was not just a sexual sin ("fornication") but a homosexual sin ("strange flesh"). They were going after people of the same sex which God forbids. God calls it strange for a person to desire someone of their own sex.

In the Bible, sodomy is a synonym for homosexuality. God made this plain in Deuteronomy 23:17 where He commanded, "*There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.*" In this context, it is clear that the word "sodomite" does not refer to an inhabitant of Sodom or a descendant of an inhabitant of Sodom but to a homosexual. By the way, Jesus said in Luke 17:29, "*But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.*" There were none who escaped, so "sodomite" has to refer to a person connected with their sin rather than their city. It is important to note that this happened BEFORE Moses received the Law from God on Mt. Sinai. That lets us know that God did not just forbid this under the Law, but He forbid it before and after the Law as we will see later. God tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:11 that "*all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of*

the world are come.” In context, this verse is speaking of the events of the Old Testament. They were given to us as examples. They were written that we might learn from the mistakes of the people written about in the Old Testament and not make the same mistakes and suffer similar judgments. If God did not let the people of Sodom get by with their sin, neither will He let those living in the same sin today.

What God Said in the New Testament:

Romans 1:26-28: *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: 27 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 recompence of their error which was meet. 28 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.”*

There are several things that are clear from this passage:

1. What is being talked about is “vile affections.” (vs. 26)
 - “vile” means dishonorable, disgraceful, shameful
2. Women and men were involved but separately. (vs. 26-27)
3. What they were doing was going against nature. (not natural) (vs. 26)
 - That means that homosexuals are not born that way as some claim.
 - The sin of homosexuality goes against nature.
 - All sin is a choice, and the sin of homosexuality is no different.
4. The sin that is being dealt with is homosexuality. (vs. 27)
 - a. The men “burned in their lust one toward another.”
 - b. They worked that which was “unseemly.”
 - 1) My Greek lexicon said that this word speaks:
 - a) “of a woman’s genitals”
 - b) “of one’s nakedness, shame”
 - 2) This implies two things:
 - a) that what these men were doing would normally be done with a woman
 - b) that it was a shame for them to do it
5. God would reward them appropriately according to their deed. (vs. 27 – last part)
 - You can rest assured that God will judge ALL sin including the sin of homosexuality.
6. God punished them by giving them over to a reprobate mind. (vs. 28)
 - They did not want God in their knowledge, so God fixed them where they could not have God in their knowledge.
 - They were at that point eternally doomed for hell.

Though other sins are listed after this passage, it seems that homosexuality is the fastest road to becoming a reprobate.

Rev 21:27: And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

-Remember what God called homosexuality in Leviticus ch. 18 and ch. 20? (“abomination”)

1 Corinthians 6:9-11: Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

The word "effeminate" is used "of a boy kept for homosexual relations with a man" and "of a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness." Tying the thought of being unnatural in with Romans 1:26, this is sure to be speaking of homosexuality. So, at least 3 of the 10 sins listed which are sure to keep you from inheriting the "kingdom of God" cover the sin of homosexuality ("fornication" being the other). Paul, under the inspiration of God, goes on to say that some of the Corinthians used to practice these same sins. BUT notice that they practiced these sins in the past. Now they were saved, washed, sanctified, and justified. That means there is hope for any sinner (homosexual included) to be saved and washed from their filthiness. Every sinner must REPENT of their sin and trust Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. He does not save us in our sins, but He came to save us from our sins. Charles Hadden Spurgeon said it well: "Dear Friend, salvation would be a sadly incomplete affair, if it did not deal with the whole part of our ruined estate. We want to be purified as well as pardoned. Justification without sanctification would not be salvation at all. It would call the leper clean, and leave him to die of his disease; it would forgive the rebellion, and allow the rebel to remain an enemy of his King. It would remove the consequence but overlook the cause, and this would leave an endless and hopeless task before us. It would stop the stream for a time, but leave an open fountain of defilement which would sooner or later break forth with increased power."

Conclusion: This is not meant to be an exhaustive study on the subject. However, it does provide enough evidence to show the evil of homosexuality. Any true seeker of Biblical truth, will have to acknowledge that the Bible and, therefore, God Himself are against this sin. May popular opinion nor personal prejudice sway us from believing this fact.