

Truth and Homosexuality

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When Jesus was being questioned by Pilate in His trial, Pilate asked the famous question: *"What is Truth"* (John 18:38). It was only a few chapters before that Jesus had answered this question when He said in John 17:17 *"Your Word is Truth"*. This concept is the cornerstone of the Way of Christ; the only certain truth that exists is the Word of God, the Scriptures. This is why the Christian examines all things through the light of the Word.

At the same time, the Scriptures tell us that sin is ultimately deceitful (Hebrews 3:13, etc.). We are introduced to this idea in Genesis 3:1-5, when sin entered the world. There the serpent (later identified as Satan) gave a living demonstration of the deceitfulness of sin. First, sin tells us what we want to be true. Then sin makes truth seem wrong (or even evil). It hides the consequences from us. Finally, when we realize it is sin, sin lies again to make it seem hopeless. These things are true of all sin.

Today there is an issue that has existed since the book of Genesis that many are struggling to identify as sin. Homosexuality is a practice of a small minority of people (about 4%), yet it is prominently spoken of by most, and the group-think today is that it is a persecuted lifestyle for which there is no choice. What is the truth about Homosexuality?

1. HOMOSEXUALITY IS A SIN

The conversation about homosexuality begins with the truth about sexual intimacy. God's view of physical intimacy in general is that it is a divine creation with conditions. While still in paradise without sin, God ordained that a man and a woman would be joined together in a covenant (marriage), and that this covenant would be consummated by sexual intimacy. Jesus reiterated this as His law of marriage in Matthew 19:5. We are told again in Hebrews 13:4 that sexual intimacy of marriage is honorable and undefiled.

Yet God has also made it clear that sexual intimacy of any kind outside of the covenant of marriage is sinful when removed from that setting place (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). This is the sinful nature of sexuality; when it is outside of the place it was created, it is sinful. This is true of many sins. Therefore, we need to see that the truth here is that God indisputably has the right and has exercised the right to condemn intimacy outside His definition of marriage.

The sins of sexual intimacy outside marriage are typically referred to in the Bible as sexual immorality (some translations just use the word immorality). When we consider sexual immorality and the Law of Christ, there is a specific list of things held as sin. Fornication (sexual intimacy between two unmarried people) is often condemned (Hebrews 13:4). Even more often is address the sin of adultery (James 2:11) which is a sexual intimacy that violates the marriage covenant in some way. Included in adultery is lust (Matthew 5:28) and divorce and remarriage (Mark 10:11). Finally, the bible addresses homosexuality on multiple occasion as a form of sexual immorality.

Homosexuality is condemned by God in a number of ways. It is directly condemned in 1 Corinthians 6:9 (Where we are told that Homosexuals cannot enter heaven) and 1 Timothy 1:10 (where we are told that Homosexuality is rooted in lawlessness and rebelliousness). Some try to avoid this by saying that since these are not the direct words of Jesus, this is not the Law of Christ. However, Jesus repeatedly said that the Apostles speak for Him (John 13:30, Luke 10:16, Matthew 10:41), so that the words of the Apostles ARE the words of Jesus.

But the Truth condemns homosexuality in other was too. IN Romans 1 we are told that men who reject God as the Creator move into a rebellious Hedonism that can turn into homosexuality (if there is any debate about the specifics of whether it is homosexuality discussed, it is clarified by the descriptions in this passage). This is God explaining why homosexuality is contrary to Him; it is contrary to the order He established in Genesis 2.

But there is still another clear repudiation of homosexuality found in Matthew 19 (and other parallel passages). There Jesus give the law of Christ on marriage, divorce and remarriage. Specifically, Jesus defines marriage (the only place where sexual intimacy is honorable) as being one man, one woman, and one life. This excludes all of the variations that we can conceive in regards to sexual intimacy, including homosexuality, bigamy, divorce and remarriage, bestiality, incest, etc. Those who understand the nature of the Law of Christ understand that when God gives us a pattern, we are not permitted to create our own ruled (Revelation 22:19). **Our conclusion in all of these matters is this: God clearly condemns an active homosexual lifestyle by every means at His disposal.**

2. DECEITFULNESS OF THIS SIN

There are many lies surrounding the homosexual lifestyle, believed by both those who practice it and those who do not. This can be confirmed merely by asking others what percentage of people are homosexual, and then looking into actual statistical data on that point.

One of the most common lies about homosexuality pertains to its biological origin. Many claim that homosexuality is a normal biological condition. This is simply not true. There is absolutely no evidence that homosexuality is biological and not a matter of lifestyle choice. In other words, one of the biggest lies of homosexuality is that one is born this way. There is no evidence of this being true. But more importantly, from a spiritual standpoint, there is no relevance to this either. Jesus said that some ARE born with sexual deviations that result in their lives being more difficult. He said this in Matthew 19:12. The truth is that some have heavier burdens. The truth is also that such people still have a choice. Sin requires a choice of action or omission in order to be sin (Genesis 4:7). **A homosexual lifestyle is a choice over which we have control.**

3. THE SORROW OF THIS SIN

It is interesting that one of the words for homosexuality is “gay” which in times past meant “happy” or “joyful”. Homosexuality is not “gay”. We need to know that sin fills us with bitterness and wrath; it fills us with hatred for those who oppose us, and grief when the consequences emerge. This is true of homosexuality too. Homosexuality is a self-destructive lifestyle. Suicide, depression and sickness is much higher in this lifestyle than in the general public. Studies have found that GLBT youth attempt suicide more than 3 times more frequently than their heterosexual counterparts; a Canadian study estimated that the risk of suicide among LGB youth is 14 times higher than for heterosexual youth. Among youth who attempted suicide, almost twice as many GLBT youth said they really hoped to die. Of transgender people, between 30-45% report having attempted suicide¹.

Some see these numeric truths and try to pass them as being the results of persecution. Yet as homosexuality becomes more accepted in society, these numbers are not going down, suggesting that they have no relation to societal acceptance. Indeed, other statistical groups who report persecution and societal non-acceptance (for racial, religious or other reasons) have nowhere near the calamitous results

¹ <https://www.healthyplace.com/gender/glbtc-mental-health/homosexuality-and-suicide-lgbt-suicide-a-serious-issue>

as do the homosexual community. **Homosexuality is a lifestyle that (like all hedonism lifestyles) brings unhappiness, sorrow and misery in the end.**

HOW SHOULD A CHRISTIAN VIEW THIS SIN

Many wonder if the Christian view of this sin should be different than other sins. Yet according to the Scriptures we have seen, it is listed as one of many things that can prevent our eternal life, and is not ranked superior to other sins. We need to exercise caution in how we view sin, because being adamantly opposed to particular sins often is perceived as being easy on others. Only 4% of people practice homosexuality, yet on 3% of American avoid fornication before marriage. Which one of these things is more dangerous? Clearly fornication! One of the deceitful things about sin is that we are distracted by some sins in order that others may abound.

Christians are to have a specific view of sin: To fear God is to hate sin (*The fear of the LORD is to hate evil* - Proverbs 8:13). This is an oft repeated statement. We cannot walk in sin and walk in the light. What is difficult for some is that we are to love those who are lost in sin. This should not be a contradiction; to love others is to hate sin (*Let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins* - James 5:20). If sin is a sickness, we can understand this better. If a loved one suffered from cancer, hating that cancerous tumor and loving them would not be a contradiction of any type. So it is with sin.

CONCLUSION:

Don't be deceived; homosexuality is evil. Don't be deceived; it is as evil as adultery, fornication, drunkenness, etc. Don't be deceived; all Christians were lost in such things before we came to Christ. Being cleansed from all sin is the only hope anyone has to be saved.

Or 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 effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11