

Genesis, part 47 – Homosexuality (Genesis 19)

Here at McLean Bible Church, we teach the Bible verse-by-verse, and when a controversial topic comes up, we deal with it biblically and straightforwardly – and then we move on to the next verses and whatever topics they bring up!

In Genesis 18, three men visited Abraham:

- Two of them = angels in human form
- The third = God Himself in the appearance of a man

“Then the LORD said to Abraham, ‘The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is **exceedingly grievous.**’” Genesis 18:20

“So the two men [“angels”] arrived in Sodom in the evening and Lot was sitting in the city gate. When Lot saw the two men, he rose and went to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.”
Genesis 19:1

“And Lot said, ‘Sirs, please turn aside to your servant’s house. You can wash your feet and spend the night there – and then go on your way early in the morning.’” Genesis 19:2

“Before they went to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom – both young and old – surrounded Lot’s house; and they called to Lot and said, ‘Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we can have sex with them.’” Genesis 19:4, 5

“So Lot went outside to meet them and said, ‘No. Do not do this wicked thing.’” Genesis 19:6

Then the men said, ‘Get out of our way!’ . . . But the two men [“angels”] reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. Then they struck the men at the door, young and old, with blindness . . .”
Genesis 19:9a, 10-11a

[As soon as Lot and his family got out] “Then the LORD rained down fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah . . . and thus He overthrew those cities.” Genesis 19:24, 25a

“God condemned Sodom and Gomorrah to make them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.” 2 Peter 2:6

“This is especially true of those who indulge in the lusts of unclean passions [Greek, *sexual* passion].”
2 Peter 2:10

The “sin” of Sodom and Gomorrah was sexual sin, in this case homosexual behavior!

A Pew Research Poll (March/2012) found that 70% of people born after 1980 support same-sex marriage.

“The basic principle America is founded on, the idea that we’re all created equal, applies to everybody, regardless of sexual orientation as well as race or gender or religion or ethnicity . . . Let’s treat everybody fairly. Let’s treat everybody equal.” President Barack Obama

If homosexuality and gay marriage are just a “civil rights” issue – then for us as followers of Christ to oppose it on that basis means that all the bad things people say about us are true!

As followers of Christ, we must first and foremost address everything – not on a “civil rights” basis, but on a “biblical” basis.

“What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?”

“If a man lies with another man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable . . .”
Leviticus 20:13

“You shall not lie with a man as one lies with a woman. It is an abomination in the eyes of the LORD.”
Leviticus 18:22

“ . . . the sin [homosexual behavior] is **grievous** in My sight.” Genesis 18:20

Romans 1:26 – “degrading”

Romans 1:26 – “unnatural”

Romans 1:27 – “indecent”

Romans 1:28 – “depraved/not proper”

2 Peter 2:6 – “ungodly”

2 Peter 2:10 – “unclean”

The Bible has a totally consistent position on homosexual behavior that **has never changed**: God regards it as sinful behavior.

[God] “A man [Hebrew, “**male**”] shall leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife [Hebrew, “**female**”].” Genesis 2:24

Clearly, God defines marriage as one “**male**” plus one “**female**.”

“ . . . a man shall cleave to his wife [Greek, “**female**”] . . .” Matthew 19:5

In **Romans chapter 1**, the Bible is describing for us how human societies deteriorate morally and spiritually – and come under God’s judgment.

Each successive state is denoted by the words “**God gave over them.**”

Stage #1 – Humanism

“For although men knew God existed, they refused to glorify Him as God . . . and exchanged the glory of God for images in the form of men and birds and animals [idols].” Romans 1:21a, 23

“Therefore, **God gave them over** . . . so that they worshipped and served created things [idols] rather than the Creator . . .” Romans 1:24a, 25b

Stage #1 in a society’s fall comes when it dethrones God as the head of that society and replaces Him with man (i.e., “humanism”).

Stage #2 – Accepted Homosexual Behavior

“Because of this (humanism) **God gave them over** to degrading passions; for their women exchanged natural relations with men for that which is unnatural, and in the same way, men abandoned natural relations with women and burned in their lust for one another – men with men, committing indecent acts . . .” Romans 1:26, 27a

What we have here in **Stage #2** is not just a few closet homosexuals – but an entire society accepting, approving, and normalizing homosexual behavior.

“Exit polls in November 2012 showed that 83% of voters believe that same-sex marriage will be legal nationwide in the next 5-10 years.” *Time*, “Gay Marriage Already Won”

Marshall Kirk, *The Overhauling of Straight America*

“The first order of business is desensitization of the American public concerning gays and gay rights.”

“Our campaign should not demand direct support for homosexual practices, but should instead take anti-discrimination as its theme.”

“You can forget about trying to persuade the masses that homosexuality is a *good* thing. But if only you can get them to think that it is *just another* thing, then your battle for legal and social rights is virtually won.”

“And we can undermine the moral authority of homophobic churches by portraying them as antiquated backwaters, badly out of step with the times and with the latest findings of psychology . . . Such has worked well on churches before, on such topics as divorce and abortion.”

Stage #3 – Spiritual Hardness

“a reprobate mind”

“Since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God in their minds, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind**, so that they became filled with every sort of wicked behavior and depravity . . . not only did they themselves do such things, but they took pleasure in convincing others to do them also.” Romans 1:28, 32b

In this final stage, we have a society without a conscience – that has become “**desensitized**” to sin.

Once a society legitimizes homosexuality, it’s like a society loses its moral compass and steep moral decline begins from which, history tells us, no society has ever survived.

So What?

Response #1 – Keep standing for God’s truth

One of the four purposes for the church – “To proclaim God’s truth (as found in the Bible) to a lost and dying world.”

“. . . preach the Word . . .” 2 Timothy 4:2

Response #2 – Reach out to homosexual people with Christ-centered love and compassion

“These studies contain arguably the best published data on the association between homosexuality and psychopathology, and both studies converge on the same unhappy conclusion: that homosexual people are at substantially higher risk for some forms of emotional problems, including suicidality, major depressions, anxiety disorder, conduct disorder, and substance abuse.” J. Michael Bailey, *Archives of General Psychiatry* (published by the *Journal of the American Medical Association*)

Dr. Neil Whitehead, *Homosexuals and Mental Health Problems*

“Recent studies show homosexuals have a substantially greater risk of suffering from psychiatric problems than do heterosexuals. We see higher rates of suicide, depression, bulimia, antisocial personality disorder, and substance abuse.”

“The authors of the study done in the Netherlands were surprised to find so much mental illness in homosexual people in a country where tolerance of homosexuality is greater than in almost all other countries.”

“Another good comparison is New Zealand, which is much more tolerant of homosexuality than is the United States . . . Despite this broad level of social tolerance, in a New Zealand study, suicide attempts (among homosexual people) were common at about the same rate as in the United States.”

Every sin is **equally** offensive to God.

Jesus died on the cross for heterosexual sinners and homosexual sinners **equally**.

The **real issue** = what we **do** with these inborn *sinful* desires.

It's all about helping homosexual people (by the Holy Spirit's power) control their homosexual desires in obedience to God – just like (by the Holy Spirit's power) I have to control my heterosexual desires in obedience to God.

Through the **life-altering power of Jesus Christ . . .** and with **the help of godly, loving friends . . .** **everyone** of us can live a **life of obedience to God!**

“Walk in the light . . .” John 12:35

Healing only happens “in the light.”