

DOES THE BIBLE REALLY TALK ABOUT OR CONDEMN HOMOSEXUALITY?

There are a number of people who basically argue that the Bible does not condemn homosexual activity. Someone sent me a meme which has the following arguments:

Argument: "Homosexuality was not in the original Bible, and only appeared because of a mistranslation, which was altering the Bible to fit social norms."

Argument: "Homosexuality only appeared in the Bible since the New American Standard Bible, which was completed in 1971. Before, there was the Greek word *arsenkoitai*, which referred to male sexual perverts, and had a completely different meaning than homosexual. Paul was most likely arguing against the Greek practice of a sexual relationship between and boys[.]"

Argument: "Besides, the whole message of the Bible is to love your neighbor. Jesus spent his time with the social outcasts, acting against the social norms."

Response:

The number of fallacies in this brief set of arguments are numerous. I have written some brief documents and previously posted them on Facebook. But as for the specific arguments here:

1. The OT does not use a term which is the equivalent of "homosexual". Rather, it is descriptive of the homosexual act.
2. In Romans 1, Paul describes and condemns both male and female homosexual acts, rather than using a term. (Note that "lesbian", according to dictionaries, just means "female homosexual".)
3. The English language came up with the term "homosexual" to describe same-sex relationships only a little over a hundred years ago (1891, 1894 [Webster]). That does not mean the concept was not there in the Bible, or in the English language, but how could earlier English Bible translations use a term which did not even exist?
4. The NT is frankly stricter than the OT when it comes to sexual immorality issues. The notion that you would get "FORNICATORS [my emphasis] and adulterers God will judge (i.e., eternal punishment; Hebrew 13:4), and then make things more open for homosexual activity is ridiculous. In 1 Cor 6 Paul includes homosexuals in the list of those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. That follows chapter 5, where Paul castigates the church at Corinth for tolerating and affirming someone engaging in incest.
6. The term translated "homosexual" in 1 Cor 6 and 1 Tim 1 is based on combining 2 terms from the Septuagint's translation of descriptive acts in Lev 18 and Lev 20, with the rough literal equivalent of "man-bedder" as a term for those engaging in same-sex activity. Note that the Greek term is something Paul made up--we do not find it outside the Bible. It would be like this: Leviticus says that "a man shall not lie with a man as a man lies with a woman" (i.e., have intercourse), and we came up with the English term "man-lie-er".
7. The Bible, in Leviticus 18; 20; and Romans 1 is descriptive of the act, rather than giving a term which could be translated "homosexual. None of these passages bring up

issues of age--only the act. Leviticus does not bring up issues of homosexual passion or "love", but Romans 1 does.

8. "Love" in the Bible never implies affirming people in their sin. False prophets affirm people in their sin (see Ezekiel 13). Read Mark 7, where Jesus severely rebukes people for all kinds of sin, including sexual sin. The notion that Jesus affirmed people who were outcasts because of their sexual activity is absurd. Sure, He dealt with the woman at the well in John 4, but not to affirm her IN her sin. See also the woman caught in adultery (John 8). There are many problems in what the Jews did in bringing her to Jesus, but there does not seem to be a question about whether or not she had actually committed adultery. He said, "Go and sin no more," with lines up with other calls to "repent and believe in the Gospel".

To show a homosexual love would be to say, "Repent". It never can involve affirming people in their sin. To encourage them in their sin is to help send them to hell. That is not a loving act or attitude.

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