

QUESTION: What does the Bible say about homosexuality?

ANSWER: The Bible takes a dim view of homosexuality/lesbianism. However, as with any other practice which goes against God's directives, a person can be forgiven and fully restored if they are willing to repent.

It is not the purpose of this entry to incite others against homosexuals. It is also not our purpose to heap extra guilt upon those who struggle with homosexuality and are seeking God's help to turn away from homosexuality. (If this is your situation, seek the help of God's people, whether they be pastoral staff, Christian friends, or Christian counsellors.)

It is our purpose is to lay out the Biblical data for a society (including some conservative Christians) which often denies that the Bible even addresses the issue. Anyone seeking Biblical endorsement of homosexuality will not find what we write acceptable.

OUTLINE:

1. The Biblical Data.
  2. Comment: Theological Problems.
  3. Conclusion: Warning and Hope.
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## 1. THE BIBLICAL DATA.

### OLD TESTAMENT

Homosexuality is first mentioned in Genesis 18:20-19:29, when the men of Sodom and Gomorrah wanted to commit homosexual rape of angels (whom they perceived to be humans [angels in the Bible are described as looking like humans, and they do not have wings; cherubs and seraphs have wings]). The cities were destroyed by God. Elsewhere in the Bible these cities are used as examples of extreme sin, sexual immorality, and God's judgment (Isaiah 1; Ezekiel 23; Jude).

The Law of Moses also explicitly forbids the practice, and prescribes the death penalty as punishment (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13). While not asserting that homosexuals are also into bestiality, the Old Testament appears to be describing homosexuality and bestiality as similar sins (Leviticus 18:23; 20:15; Deuteronomy 27:21). The Old Testament gives no specific examples of lesbianism, but the New Testament addresses the issue (see below).

Some have made the nonsensical argument that David and Jonathan had a homosexual relationship, but there is NO evidence that their strong friendship had any sexual component (2 Samuel 1:26). David was married to Jonathan's sister, Michal.

Similar to the Sodom and Gomorrah situation, in the Judges 19-20 the men of Gibeah wanted to engage in homosexual relations with a visiting Levite. The tribe of Benjamin defended the perpetrators of this crime, and the result was civil war.

According to 1 Kings 14:24; 15:12; 2 Kings 23:7, male religious prostitutes were an abomination and associated with idolatry.

## NEW TESTAMENT

According to Paul in the New Testament, homosexuals will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:10). Paul also indicates that homosexuality is a sign of people's extreme rejection of God, and a result of the same (Romans 1:26-27, 32), and that those who practice such things are worthy of death. This passage also deals with homosexual desire as something which is against God's design (verse 26-27).

Similarly, Peter and Jude strongly condemn this practice (2 Peter 2:6-10; Jude 7-8 [Jude and Peter compare Sodom and Gomorrah's sexual practices with the practices of their opponents, with no hint that rape was a major part of the issue]).

Homosexuality is clearly a forgivable sin, for Paul lists it among the former practices of forgiven people at Corinth (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

## 2. COMMENT: THEOLOGICAL (BIBLICAL) PROBLEMS WITH ACCEPTING HOMOSEXUALITY.

- A. It goes against God's created order.
  - (1) Male and female shall become one (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:8).
  - (2) Biologically, God designed male and female to have intercourse, not male and male/female and female.
- B. God's purposes for sex, which only assume male-female relationships.
  - (1) Oneness of male and female (Genesis 2:24).
  - (2) Procreation (Genesis 1:28).
- C. Woman was created to be a companion for the man, not a man (Genesis 2:18-24).
- D. All extramarital sexual relationships are forbidden by the Bible.
- E. Homosexual "marriage" is not recognized by the Bible.

## 3. CONCLUSION: WARNING AND HOPE.

- A. On the one hand, the Bible is consistent: homosexuality is wrong, forbidden, evidence of rejection of God, subject to punishment, and ultimately will result in eternal condemnation by God.
- B. On the other hand, God is willing to forgive those who are willing to repent of anything which goes against His ways--including homosexuality.

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