



What does the Bible say about homosexuality?

I liked this question, because it gets us right to the place we ought to be going for our answer: God. You know, it really doesn't matter what your neighbor thinks about it or what some guy who kicks a football for a living thinks or what your favorite celebrity thinks or what the politicians think. The bottom line on this question - and all other questions of morality - is "What does God think about it?"

Come November 6 when we close the curtains behind us at the polling booth and have to figure out how to vote on the Marriage Amendment (which would define marriage in our state's constitution as between one man and one woman), the guiding question must be: "What does God say?"

Some people may have well-reasoned arguments. Others (it seems like most) just resort to name calling. Yet others rush to put their words into God's mouth, "God would....."

It seems the only smart thing is to let God speak for Himself on the issue. And God *has* spoken - quite plainly. Here's what He tells us in His word

Leviticus 18:22-23

22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. 23 And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion. (i.e. "Not the way I created you to be")

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

12 "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. 13 "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Romans 1:25-32

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

1 Timothy 1:8-10

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. 9 We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, 10 for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.

Matthew 19:5-6

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Based on those passages we can safely conclude the following:

- 1) Homosexual behavior is prohibited in *both* the Old and New Testament
- 2) Homosexual behavior is contrary to the Creator's design.
- 3) Marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman.

That should help with guidance for the voting booth, but what about guidance for the other times in life? Here's one final, all-important conclusion:

4) Homosexuality is but one of *many* things God did not create us to engage in. Remember the end of the 1 Timothy passage - "*and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine*"? I think those of us for whom homosexuality is not a temptation tend to forget that the sins which *are* temptations for us are also not part of God's plan. (And, just because we are tempted by certain things doesn't mean *God made me that way* or that being tempted by certain things gives us permission to follow those temptations.)

The key response to *all* of these sins - including the ones that trip you up - is not to somehow try to make God "ok" with those actions. The key response is the same as it has always been: Repentance - admitting that we have not followed God's plan and seeking His forgiveness and His help to "turn around and turn away" from these actions in the future.

Never forget this: Jesus *has already* purchased forgiveness for us by taking the punishment for all sins on the cross. And God *has already* given us His Holy Spirit to help us with the "turn away" part. That's how He shows His true love for us, not by "changing His mind" and being "ok" with something we are doing that is not good for us.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net