

## Homosexuality and the Bible

God created two sexes in His wisdom. He could have created one or several, but decided otherwise. In our rebellion against God and His created order, and because of certain family and social influences, a vocal and powerful movement to promote homosexuality and lesbianism is growing globally. It has gained the support of various archbishops within the Anglican Church. The United Methodist Church in America has within its congregations those that ordain practicing homosexuals to the pastorate. The Presbyterian Church, USA continues to debate whether or not to ordain and condone practicing homosexual clergy and officers (see <http://www.pcusa.org/101/101-homosexual.htm> and [http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom\\_pru.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_pru.htm) for background). The United Church of Christ allows practicing homosexuals to serve as pastors and officers (<http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/1006/p01s02-woaf.html>) African archbishops have rebuked Western archbishops within the Anglican communion for surrendering to heretical teaching regarding homosexuality (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4298553.stm>).

1. God created two distinct sexes (Gen. 1:27).

- a. He wants to keep the unique identity and sexual role of male and female. He told the Jews that a man should not wear a woman's clothes, nor women, men's clothes (Deut. 22:5, no "unisex").
- b. He detests perversion of the natural sexual relations between husbands and wives into either homosexuality or lesbianism (Lev. 20:13 [requiring death in Old Testament Israel]; 18:22; Romans 1:24,26-27).

God's position and anger against homosexuality is illustrated in the account of the visit of two angels to Sodom, sent to see how evil the situation there actually was. They learned the worst. The men of the town demanded to have sexual relations with these two visitors, mistaken for men (Gen. 19:5). In fact, they preferred sexual relations with men than with virgin women (19:8). God destroyed Sodom, from which we coin the term "sodomy," with "burning sulfur" (NIV--Gen. 19:24-25).

- c. Bestiality (sexual relations with animals) is an abomination to God (Lev. 18:23; 20:15-16).

2. Despite any predispositions developed through female-dominated families-of-origin or childhood molestation, for example, while certain dynamics are tragic and can be understood, they are not tolerated or excused by God. As with overeating, many precipitating circumstances do not nullify God's posture toward gluttony or sexual perversion.

3. The remedy for homosexuals is the free forgiveness offered by Christ, who liberates us from all forms of sexual immorality and bondage. Some Corinthian Christians were once homosexuals, yet God changed them. The solution is the same as for all other sins: the blood of Christ:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 <sup>9</sup> "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders <sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> **And that is what some of you were.** 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." NIV

Without repentance, the consequences are the same as for all other sin. God specified some particularly offensive transgressions in Revelation 21. Lying and cowardice are among them.

<sup>8</sup> "But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." Revelation 21:8 NIV

If you are involved in homosexuality, you are among the rest of us who sin in a multitude of ways. We have but one solution:

<sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." {11 Isaiah 28:16} <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:9-13 NIV

For those who struggle, Harvest, USA is dedicated to helping with services and many articles concerning this cultural and moral battlefield:

<http://www.harvestusa.org/index.html>

<http://www.harvestusa.org/articles/articles.htm#Topics>

Jim Sutherland, Ph.D.