

God's Opinion Of Homosexuality

'If a man lies (has sex) with a male, as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They will surely be put to death. Their own blood will be upon them' (Leviticus 20:13). 'You will not lie (have sex) with a man as with a woman. That is detestable' (Leviticus 18:22).

Some people may argue the death penalty for homosexuality was before Jesus came and ushered in the age of grace, but God does not change (Malachi 3:6) and the same judgement applies to homosexuality and lesbianism after Jesus came. We need to understand, the Bible is not just a lovely history book, it is the thoughts of Almighty God written down for us as He told all of the authors what to write and what to record on His behalf. Every word written within the Bible are inspired by God and breathed by His Holy Spirit. 'Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and for instruction in righteousness so the man (and woman) of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work' (2 Timothy 3:16 & 17). We need to make very clear, God hates the sin but He loves the sinner. God does not hate homosexuals. He loves them as much as He loves all humanity and sent Jesus to die so their sin can be cleansed. This is not a hate speech, it is warning all those who participate in any sexual sin, unless you stop the sin, repent, ask forgiveness and walk with God for the remainder of your life, your life will be worthless and you will end up in the eternal Lake of Fire. That is God's judgement for sin. 'The 'wages' of sin is eternal death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23). When our loved ones repent we can say to them, "Put to death your sin on the earth, sexual immorality, uncleanness, depraved passion, evil desire and covetousness, which is all idolatry, for which behaviours the wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience" (Colossians 3:5 & 6). God loves the sinner but hates the sin and no Christian should ever hate any person. Jesus bled and died for all humanity. It is only by the grace of God anyone is saved. We are all sinners who need to repent of our sin but this Bible study focuses on sexual sin and the eternal outcome for those who reject God and die in their sin.

Homosexuality is not the only sexual sin that appals God. Adultery, incest, paedophilia and bestiality are other sexual sins God hates. 'None of you will approach anyone who are your close relatives to have sex with them. You will not have sex with your father nor your mother, for she is your mother and you will not have sex with her. You will not have sex with your stepmother. You will not have sex with your sister, half-sister, stepsister or sister-in-law, whether born at home or born abroad. You will not have sex with your niece for she is your own flesh. You will not have sex with your aunt for she is your father's or your mother's near kinswoman. You will not have sex with your uncle's wife for she is your aunt. You will not have sex with your daughter-in-law for she is your son's wife. You will not have sex with your brother's wife. You will not have sex with a woman and her daughter or her grandchildren for they are her near kin and it is wickedness. You will not marry a woman and her sister to be a rival while her sister is still alive ... You will not lie carnally with your neighbour's wife and defile yourself with her ... You will not lie with any animal to defile yourself with it neither will any woman give herself to an animal to lie down with it. It is a perversion' (Leviticus 18:6 to 23).

'The man who commits adultery with another man's or a neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress will be put to death. The man who lies (has sex with) with his stepmother has uncovered his father's wife. Both of them will be put to death and their own blood will be upon them (meaning they have brought this judgement upon their own heads). If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them will be put to death. They have committed a perversion. If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They will be put to death. If a man takes a wife and her mother, it is wickedness. They will be (killed then) burned with fire (cremated) both he and the women so there may be no wickedness among you. If a man has sex with an animal, he will be put to death and you will kill the animal. If a woman approaches any animal and lies down with it you will kill the woman and the animal. They will be put to death. If a man takes his sister or half-sister, his father's or his mother's daughter, it is a shameful thing and they will be cut off in the sight of the children of their people and he will bear his own iniquity. You will not have sex with your mother's sister or your father's sister (an aunt), for he has made naked his close relative. They will bear their iniquity. If a man has sex with his uncle's wife (his aunt), they will bear their sin. They will die childless. If a man takes his brother's wife, it is an impurity. They will be childless' (Leviticus 20:10 to 21).

'God said, "Because the cry (of sin in) Sodom and Gomorrah is great and because their sin (of homosexuality) is very grievous, I will go down now and see whether their deeds are as bad as the reports which have come to Me. If not, I will know'" (Genesis 18:20 & 21) 'The two holy angels came to Sodom at evening. Lot (Abraham's nephew) sat in the gate of Sodom. Lot saw them and rose up to meet them. He bowed himself with his face to the earth and he said, "See now my lords, please turn aside into your servant's house, stay all night, wash your feet and you will rise up early and go on your way." They said, "No, we will stay in the street all night." Lot urged them greatly and they came into his house with him. He made them a feast and baked unleavened bread and they ate. Before they lay down to sleep, the men of the city, the men of Sodom surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter. They called to Lot and said, "Where are the men who came in to you this night? Bring them out to us so we may have

sex with them.” Lot went out to them to the door and shut the door after him. He said, “Please my brothers, do not act so wickedly ... do not do anything to these men because they have come under the shadow of my roof.” They said, “Stand back! This one fellow (Lot) came in to live as a foreigner and he appoints himself a judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them!” They pressed hard on Lot and drew near to break the door, but the men (the holy angels) put forth their hand, brought Lot into the house to them and shut the door. They struck the (wicked homosexual) men who were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great, so they wearied themselves trying to find the door’ (Genesis 19:1 to 11). (Notice here, the wicked, aggressive homosexual men continued trying to find the door, even after the holy angels had blinded them.)

The story continues; ‘The men (holy angels) said to Lot, “Do you have anybody else here? Sons-in-law, your sons, your daughters and whoever you have in the city, bring them out of the place for we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown so great before the Lord Yahweh, He has sent us to destroy it.” Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law who were pledged to marry his daughters and said, “Get up! Get out of this place for God will destroy the city.” But his sons-in-law thought he was joking. When the morning came, the holy angels hurried Lot saying, “Get up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here lest you be consumed in the iniquity of the city.” But Lot lingered. The angels grabbed his hand, his wife’s hand and his two daughters’ hands, the Lord Yahweh being merciful to him, and they took him outside of the city. When the angels had taken Lot and his family out the angel said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you and do not stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains lest you be consumed!” Lot refused and said to them, “Oh not so my lord. See now, your servant (referring to himself) has found favour in your sight and you have magnified your loving kindness, which you have shown to me in saving my life. I cannot escape to the mountain lest evil overtake me and I die. See now, this city is near to flee to and it is a little one. Oh let me escape there, the town is a little one and my soul will live.” The angel said to Lot, “Behold, I have granted your request concerning this thing so I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you get there.” The name of the city was called Zoar. The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. Then Yahweh rained on Sodom and on Gomorrah (brimstone) sulphur and fire from out of the sky. He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities and the plants that grew on the ground. ‘Lot’s wife looked back (lingered) from behind him and she became a pillar of salt (overcome with salt and died)’ (Genesis 19:12 to 26).

The salt and sulphur that rained down onto that area is still there. That is where the Dead Sea, also known as the Salt Sea is located. Tourists flock to that area to lie on the mineral-rich water. Many people do not know the historical facts and do not realise they are seeing the same salt that rained down in judgement thousands of years ago. This event was a warning to every person who sins in this way. In our modern world they would not be sentenced to death but they will certainly be sentenced to eternal death, the second death, the lake of fire. ‘Even as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, having in the same way as these, given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh (homosexuality and lesbianism) are set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire’ (Jude 1:7). They may not be put to death like in Leviticus, but ‘For the cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral (homosexuals, lesbians, prostitutes, paedophiles, rapists etc), sorcerers, idolaters and all liars, their part is in the Lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death’ (Revelation 21:8).

Those events happened during the lives of Old Testament people but see what God said in the New Testament about homosexuality. Remember, God does not change and His values do not change. He considers same-sex activities as being against nature and it was God Who created nature and humanity. When people are so filled with sin and reject God and His teachings, God actually gives up on some people and Scripturally, He only gives up on homosexuals, lesbians and others who are involved in sexual sin. ‘Therefore (or because of their ongoing sin) God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness so their bodies should be dishonoured among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and they worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions. Their women changed the natural function into what is against nature. Likewise the men, leaving the natural function of the woman, burned in their lust toward one another, men doing what is inappropriate with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty of their error. Even as they refused to have God in their knowledge, God gave them up to a reprobate mind to do those things which are not fitting, being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil habits, secret slanderers, backbiters, hateful to God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without (Spiritual) understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, unforgiving, unmerciful, who knowing the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but also approve of those who practice them’ (Romans 1:24 to 32).

There are many verses in the Bible that inform everyone of the eternal penalties of sexual sin. ‘Flee sexual immorality! “Every sin a person does is outside the body, but those who commits sexual immorality sins

against their own body" (1 Corinthians 6:18). 'The works of the flesh are obvious, which are, adultery, sexual immorality, uncleanness, lustfulness, orgies etc ... I forewarn you, those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God' (Galatians 5:19 & 21). 'Know this for sure, no sexually immoral person, nor unclean person ... has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Jesus and God' (Ephesians 5:5). 'You know the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Do not be deceived. The sexually immoral, fornicators, sodomites, adulterers, male prostitutes, nor homosexuals will ever inherit the Kingdom of God' (1 Corinthians 6:9). 'Know this, the laws (of God) were not made for a righteous person but for the lawless and insubordinate, the sexually immoral, homosexuals, slave-traders, liars, perjurers and any other thing contrary to the sound doctrine' (1 Timothy 1:9 & 10). We are told to abstain from all sexual immorality and repent of all sexual sin. See Acts 15:20 & 29; Acts 21:25; 1 Corinthians 6:13 and 10:8; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 12:16).

Homosexuality and cross-dressing, gender changes, same sex marriage were all once regarded as unnatural and a perversion but in our modern world, what had been seen as sin and revulsion has been accepted as 'normal'. It is not normal in God's eyes so it should never be considered normal to any Christian. The Scriptures say, 'Knowing the ordinance of God (His opinions, His laws), those who practice such things are worthy of death, (but people) not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them' (Romans 1:32). God's normal for all humanity is marriage between one man and one woman for life (Genesis 2:24). The reason for this type of union is to raise Godly children, that is why God hates divorce and violence towards women so much, because He knows how damaging divorce and violence is on children (Malachi 2:15 & 16).

In our modern culture, views of sexuality have increasingly changed. Sadly, even amongst some Christians, there is more weakening of Godly opinions regarding sexual ethics including same-sex activities. No one can be a true disciple and continue to engage in sexual sin. God considers homosexuality to be sinful and dedicated Christians should have the same viewpoint. God is the One Who gave us His laws to follow and it is up to us to obey Him. If people truly love God they will obey His Commandments (John 14:15). The Lord has a special sexual ethic that excludes all same-sex activity. God created us male and female and limits all sexual activity to marriage between one man and one woman for life (Genesis 2:24) so the concept some people have that they were born with a desire for the same sex is nonsense. Babies have no sexual orientation. That develops due to outside factors and influences. For example, some young and impressionable boys, after being molested by a perverted adult male, may grow up to become homosexual, but thankfully most do not. In the holy Ten Commandments and elsewhere in the Bible, adultery, same-sex activity, bestiality, cross-dressing, prostitution, lesbianism, homosexuality, pre-marital sex and any other sexual activity is utterly condemned. Same-sex marriage was not considered when Moses received the dozens of commandments regarding sexual activity, it was not mentioned but cross-dressing was certainly condemned as were people who engage in opposite gender behaviours, such as, men behaving like women or women behaving like men. 'A woman will not wear men's clothing, neither will a man put on women's clothing, for whoever does these things is an abomination to Yahweh your God' (Deuteronomy 22:5).

God's opinion of 'transgender' is as an abomination to Him. 'God said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image after Our likeness ... God created mankind in His own image. In God's image He created them. Male and female He created them' (Genesis 1:26 & 27). Two genders, male and female. We are the one and only creation who were created in the image and likeness of our Sovereign Creator God. There is no alternate gender. No man can never really become a woman and no woman can ever actually become a man. Those who try to change their gender are in reality, deluding themselves. They can take hormones to alter their appearance or have surgery to alter how they were born but their gender never actually changes. A man born as a male will always be male no matter how hard he tries to change. Referring to himself as 'she' can never change the fact he was born male. Those people are so deceived they are pitiful. When people choose to try to change their gender, that is an abomination to God because it is their choice. In the sad case of people born with genital abnormalities, we are called to love and accept those people because they were also created in the likeness and image of God and they were born with physical differences, that is all. Every person on earth needs to find our true identity in Jesus and when we do, we become sons and daughters of God, regardless of any deformities some may have. What is tragic, is the person who has undergone gender reassignment surgery only to deeply regret their decision after it is too late. A person struggling with gender identity should not be mocked by Christians but encouraged in the Lord to walk with God to the best of their ability and to stand against temptation and strong godless pressure to change the way they were born.

Just because some countries have changed their laws to allow same-sex marriages, that does not mean God would ever approve of such a union and the teaching within the Bible does not change. Sexual sin of all kinds is a serious offence to God. His standards for sexuality are much different to people within our culture. All genuine believers are called to be celibate or marry one person from the opposite gender and to remain

faithful to that person for life. 'Because of sexual immoralities, let each man have his own wife and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband give to his wife the affection owed her and likewise the wife to her husband' (1 Corinthians 7:2 & 3). All other forms of sexual activity are immoral and sinful, and must be avoided by people who seek to faithfully follow the Lord. As the Bible says, two people joined sexually are considered to be 'one flesh' (Matthew 19:5). It also means, men who go to a prostitute become 'one flesh' with her too. Christians need to understand this, 'Do you not realise your bodies are members of the Body of Jesus? Will I then take the members of Jesus and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! Do you not realise, he who is joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For, "The two," says God, "will become one flesh" (1 Corinthians 6:16).

Pre-marital sex is not acceptable to God, even if the couple do plan to marry or are engaged. Engagement or betrothal is a promise to marry, it is not marriage. 'Do you not realise your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from God? You are not your own for you were bought with a price (the price of the cross, blood and death of Jesus). Therefore glorify God in your body and in your Spirit, which belong to God' (1 Corinthians 6:19 & 20). Think about this young people who think pre-marital sex is okay. If you could actually see Jesus hanging on the cross, bleeding to death, dying for you, to save your soul from eternal death, would you still continue in your sin? No. If you were genuine about your walk with God you would be too ashamed. Next time you allow lust to overcome your emotions, stop and think about our Saviour first. God expects us to be pure and holy. Our sinful society encourages sex outside of marriage but the Bible forbids it. Listen to God for your eternal life may depend on it. Looking at a woman with lust in his heart is as sinful as actually having sex with her. Jesus said, "I tell you, everyone who gazes at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).

The legalising of same-sex marriage should not be encouraged by Christian churches. Christian ministers should never conduct such a wedding. God will never condone a same-sex marriage so it would be better for the couple to go to a non-religious marriage celebrant. There is no Scripture that can support so-called marriage equality. Churches need to update their policies so they can refuse to conduct sinful 'weddings' and avoid any future controversy if it is a documented part of the churches' Statement of Faith. We need to let marriage be as God ordained marriage – a pure, holy, honourable union between a man and a woman. Anything else defiles God's plan for families. 'Let marriage be held in honour among all and let the marriage bed be undefiled. God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers' (Hebrews 13:4). It is God Who has the right to judge these people but it is the mandate of all Christians and the church to keep marriage as God intended. We must protect marriage, honour it and encourage marriage purity. Genuine Christians should not attend a same-sex marriage because it is not a true marriage – it is an abomination. These relationships are immoral and should never be part of Christian lives. The Bible tells us such unions are shameful. We are called to be apart from situations like this. Jesus would never attend a same-sex marriage and if He lives within us, we should not take Him to such a sinful venue. Wherever we go, He comes with us. Let us all avoid any sinful venue no matter where it is.

When others oppose our Godly stance against sin, we need to remember, the world hated and persecuted Jesus long before it hated us (John 15:18 & 20). We need to be a shining light in this dark world (Matthew 5:16). We need to be firm in our convictions yet still show kindness and Godly love to those who hold a different view. We cannot change them but God can change them, just like He changed us. If they continue to reject God they may die in their sin. We will mourn those we love who have died in their sin. 'I will mourn for many of those who have sinned before now and not repented of the uncleanness, sexual immorality and lustfulness which they committed' (2 Corinthians 12:21).

'You were made alive when you were dead in transgressions and sins in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the evil spirit who now works in the children of disobedience among whom we also all once lived in the lust of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest of them. But God, being rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses He made us alive together with Jesus. By grace you have been saved and He raised us up with Him and made us to sit with Him in the heavenly places in Jesus so in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Jesus. By grace you have been saved through faith and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of our works so no one would boast. We are God's workmanship, created in Jesus for good works, which God prepared before we would walk in them' (Ephesians 2:1 to 10).

Amen and God bless you.

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