

God, Christians, and Homosexuality, Part 1

The phrase, *coming out of the closet*, suggests something hidden and unacceptable. Such was the case with homosexuality in the past. In great contrast today, people are applauded and given awards for bravery for openly expressing a homosexual lifestyle. Those who oppose homosexuality are being accused by some of committing a hate crime.

In this article I want to consider what the Bible says about homosexuality. In a subsequent article I wish to consider the relevance of some common claims about homosexuality, and then a third article will consider a Christian perspective toward homosexuality.

Biblical Harmony:

Before going further it is important to understand that biblical claims are God's claims. In addition, what God says, Jesus says.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16 NASB)

So Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. ¹⁷If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself." (John 7:16-17 NASB)

The Bible is *God's word*. The teachings of Jesus are *God's word*. The three are synonymous. All biblical teachings are in harmony with deity.

The Bible and Homosexuality:

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effemi-

nate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰...will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NASB)

...Law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane... ¹⁰and immoral men and homosexuals...and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching.... (1 Timothy 1:9-10 NASB)

The Apostle Paul wrote about God's wrath toward the unrighteousness of men. In his description of unrighteousness he included *degrading passions* in which "women exchanged the natural function for that which is against nature" and men who "abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another." Both describe homosexuality. (Romans 1:18-32.)

Jesus, when confronted with a question about divorce, appealed to God's act of creation saying that God created male and female. A man and a woman are to come together in sexual intimacy within marriage. This was not a fluke of creation, but God's intended design. (Matthew 19:3-6)

A person may reject the Bible, reject God, or reject Jesus. However, there is no question: God never promoted, endorsed, condoned, or allowed homosexuality. Jesus never promoted, endorsed, condoned, or allowed homosexuality. The Bible consistently describes the practice of homosexuality as sinful! God, Jesus, the Bible: In perfect harmony.

(Next week: Answering claims about homosexuality.)

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