

## God, Christians, and Homosexuality, Part 3

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Would you feel comfortable working with someone who had served time in prison for murder? Would you feel comfortable working side by side with a thief? Would it bother you to find out that your co-worker tells 'little white lies'?

This is the third of three articles dealing with homosexuality. In this article I wish to consider how Christians should respond to the homosexual and homosexuality.

We say it correctly, "Sin is sin." It really does not matter what sin a person commits, all sin brings about the condemnation of one's soul. However, we intuitively recognize that certain sins have different effects in life.

Would it surprise you to know that God agrees? According to the Apostle Paul, sexual sin is of a different nature than other sin.

**Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. (1 Corinthians 6:18 NASB)**

'Immorality' is a broad term for sexual sin. Even if we do not fully understand this verse, it is clear that sexual sin is different than other sin. Perhaps that is why sexual sins seem to be more repulsive to some people. It is not uncommon for people engaged in sexual sin to be completely avoided as if they are diseased.

**So what is a Christian's response to homosexuality?**

Paul told the Christians in Corinth to avoid immoral people *who claimed to be Christians*. One would have to go out of the world to avoid all immoral people. (1 Corinthians 5:9-10)

He told the Christians in Ephesus not to participate in 'unfruitful deeds of darkness.' He went on to say that **"it is disgraceful even to speak of things done by them in secret."** (Ephesians 5:11-12 NASB) So, remaining pure does not require Christians to avoid sinners, but to avoid sin and not make it a conversation piece.

As for the homosexual person, Paul encourages Christians to adopt the same attitude as Christ, who because of his great love, gave him life on the cross. So, we must demonstrate a love for the souls of others regardless of their sin. (Philippians 2:5-8; John 3:16). Consider also:

**...Have mercy on some, who are doubting; <sup>23</sup>save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh. (Jude 1:22-23 NASB)**

We must not compromise morality by embracing or endorsing sin. However, we must not shun those who are caught in sin. So, **"let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."** (Galatians 6:10 NIV)

When speaking to someone involved in sexual sin, remember:

- You do not have to make them clean up their life BEFORE sharing the gospel.
- Your words have no power; the power is in the gospel. Let it do what it does.
- You are not responsible for 'their' transformation; that is in God's hands.
- Because sexual sin can be addictive, when that person responds to Christ, the battle has just begun. Pray fervently.