

Homosexuality

Before starting a study on homosexuality, it is important to consider some critical principles from the Bible:

- Jesus died for the whole world out of his love for us (John 3:16).
- God loves the sinner, and we are ALL sinners (Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23). But, He hates sin (Isaiah 59:2) and offers to give us life through His Son Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).
- The cleansing and forgiveness for all of our sins is by faith in Jesus and not by our own good deeds or works (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- So, based on the Bible, as followers of Jesus Christ, we can be forgiven and restore our relationship with God through confession and repentance (1 John 1:9).

That brings us to the topic of homosexuality.

It is not the scope of this lesson to argue whether people are born attracted to others of the same sex or develop it along the way. What is important is what the Bible has to say about those who engage in homosexual practice or activity. As we have pointed out in other lessons, making choices based on feelings, and not truth or what is right, can lead to poor choices and bad consequences.

It may be like a heterosexual (“straight”) person acting on feelings of lust towards a person of the opposite sex and committing fornication (sex outside of marriage) or adultery (sex with someone other than one’s spouse). Both acts are sin (going against God’s design and plan for sex in the context of marriage between a man and a woman).

The following are some references to this as it pertains to God’s design for marriage:

- Genesis 1:27-28 and Genesis 2:24-25 (God created man and woman in His image to be fruitful and multiply, and to become “one flesh”). This is again restated in the New Testament in Matthew 19:4-6 and Mark 10:6-9.
- God commands that we keep the “marriage bed” pure and that He will judge the sexually immoral (Hebrews 13:4).
- The bodies of the husband and wife belong to one another (1 Corinthians 7:2-5).
- God’s blueprint for marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33).

The following are passages that are more specific when it comes to acts of homosexuality:

- Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13).
- God gives people over to their unnatural and shameful lusts for those of the same sex (Romans 1:26-28). They have exchanged the truth of God for a lie.
- Those who practice adultery or homosexuality, and do not repent, will not inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
- God’s ways are for our own good because He loves us, wants to protect us and wants the best for us (see Galatians 3:19-25).
- The “law” is made for those who “practice” sin, including adultery, murder, homosexuality and other sinful practices mentioned in 1 Timothy 1:8-11. Followers of Jesus Christ are forgiven, but are not free of sin. But, they do not keep on “practicing” sin. (also see 1 John 3:4).

Questions to consider:

- 1) How can a person with feelings of attraction to others of the same sex be saved and given power over his or her sinful passions? (hint: Romans 10:9-10, then Hebrews 2:14,18, Philippians 4:13 and James 4:7-8,10)
- 2) How does one best love others caught up in sin without approving of the sin itself? (In other words, how do we best love the sinner and hate the sin, without a condemning spirit?)
- 3) How might the church do a better job in reaching out to those who struggle with homosexuality?