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# Bible Study Center Seminar

Topic: “Does God **REALLY** condemn  
**HOMOSEXUALITY?**”

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This 3-part seminar dealing with the topic of HOMOSEXUALITY is a follow up to a previous seminar on the same topic. That seminar introduced the topic and sought to bring out the Bible texts so that what God has to say would become very clear. That seminar revealed that God DOES NOT accept the gay lifestyle. This seminar takes into consideration objections to that conclusion raised by some and then focuses in on the heart of the matter to see if there might have been in the first seminar some misunderstanding or misrepresentation of God's position.

We will begin as always by establishing the Bible's basic foundation of authority and discuss how to study it in context then proceed to a follow-up discussion about homosexuality. We will go back to the Bible texts and reexamine them carefully so that we can make certain that we understand what God really says.

Each session of the seminar is designed to span 2 hours, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and will break down into an initial 10-minute introduction/review, followed by a 40-minute lecture, with a 20 minute snack/visitation break, followed by another 40-50 minute lecture.

The flow of topics covered in the seminar are as follows;

**Session 1A = Introduction: Laying a FOUNDATION**

**Session 1B = Introduction: Why THIS again?**

**Session 2A = How can a loving God condemn people who love each other - regardless of their gender?**

**Session 2B = It is all in the words GOD CHOSE to represent his opinion!**

**Session 3A = Is homosexuality the REAL issue here?**

**Session 3B = Summary & Questions**

This study material is the companion lesson book of a seminar.

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## **1A: Introduction: Laying a Foundation**

“CHRISTIANITY” today is a very confusing situation. Worldwide there are **over 41,000 groups** who **CLAIM** to believe in Christ, **CLAIM** to follow the Bible, **CLAIM** to be Christians and yet **NO TWO GROUPS TEACH THE SAME THINGS!** When Jesus came to the earth one of his goals was to start his church. The New Testament speaks of only ONE church. In **John 17:21**, shortly before he was killed on the Cross, Jesus

**Worldwide there are more than  
41,000 different groups!**

- Each one **CLAIMS** to follow Christ!
- Each one **CLAIMS** to follow the Bible!
- Each one **CLAIMS** to be Christian!

And yet...

**NO TWO GROUPS  
teach the same things!**

Is this really a good thing?  
**Is THIS what Jesus died for?**

### ***Diagram 1***

prayed for his followers of that time and of all times to “**be ONE**”, in the same way that he and his Father are **ONE!** After Jesus left the earth his followers were given the task of continuing his work. The Apostles taught and led the effort to spread original Christianity throughout the world. They believed that the church should be one<sup>1</sup> and they worked hard to keep the one church united, but as time passed they witnessed a very sad thing. They watched as people who started out as Christians became false teachers who confused the faith of many people and caused division in Christ’s church. Where there **should have been unity** in faith and practice, differences and debate happened! The Apostles were not able to stop the process even though they gave many warnings and predictions of doom for anyone who did not stay with the true teachings. In various places they warned Christians to remain faithful to the original teachings of Christianity. (See: **Galatians 1:6-9**, **2 John 1:9-11**; **Revelation 22:18-19**; and **1 John 2:3-6**; **24**)

There are also several passages where the Apostle Paul spoke in detail to Timothy about the false teachings in the future. In **2 Timothy 3:1-7** Paul tells Timothy that in the future people would not hold on to **the TRUTH**. He explained that they would be religious people, having a “form of religion”, but that they would deny the power of it. The context shows that their “religion” would be wrong and that they would try to **deceive** people, especially “women who are burdened with many sins”. In the next chapter, **2 Timothy 4:1-5**, he told Timothy to be hard-working in teaching people the Scriptures because people would not hold onto **TRUE TEACHINGS** but while having “itching ears” would surround themselves with teachers that would say things “**they want** to hear”.

**These passages provide important insight into the situation of the 41,000 groups we see today. Over many centuries various leaders ADDED TO, TOOK AWAY FROM, and/or CHANGED the original teachings of Christianity. This is how the world went from having the ONE church Jesus started and prayed for to having the 41,000 churches that “Christianity” today is very happy about!**

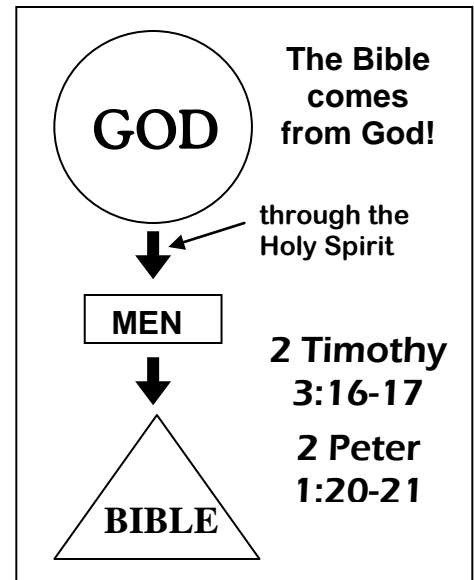
The WARNINGS of the Apostles are just as important for us as they were for the original readers of the New Testament books. We live in a world where we must be very careful to make certain that the teachings we accept and follow are the same original ones that came from to the people in the time of original Christianity!

<sup>1</sup> In **Ephesians 1:22-23**, **Colossians 1:18**, the Apostle speaks of the church as the “body” of Christ. In **Ephesians 4:1-6** he mentions only “**ONE** body”. No writer in the New Testament speaks of more than one church!

Christianity is **NOT** a democracy and the teachings of Christianity **WILL NOT** change with time. Christianity will not **EVOLVE!** This is because Christianity is based upon a message from God that was revealed in its entirety and once it was completed, it was fixed and unchangeable. God is its author, Christ and the Apostles were the messengers, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the result is what WE call the Bible. (See **Diagram 2 = 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21**)

It is an undisputed fact that differences in teachings between religious groups exist today because people, whether sincere or not, use God's word outside of its **original intended context**<sup>2</sup>.

While this is sad and creates much arguing and confusion, the situation is not hopeless. All we have to do to repair things is to get everyone to stop and apply to religion and the Bible **one of the most basic guiding principles that ALL people in ALL nations hold dear**, which is the belief that what a person says (a message) belongs to that person and that, out of respect for that person, no one should ever misrepresent that person's message in any way.



**Diagram 2**

***What a person says belongs to that person and it would be disrespectful to misrepresent that person's message in any way!***

Our obligation is not necessarily to agree with what a person says, but to **UNDERSTAND** that message, as it was intended. If we decide to tell that message to other people then we must do so in a way that preserves the **INTENDED meaning of the one who originated that message**. Anything less would be disrespectful and unethical! To prove the necessity of this point simply consider the following. "How do YOU feel when you are the victim of misrepresentation?" It is no different with God and HIS message! In **2 Timothy 2:14-15**, Paul spoke to Timothy about ethics **when handling the Word of TRUTH!** We must study to **UNDERSTAND God's message BECAUSE IT BELONGS TO HIM!**

<sup>2</sup> **Context** means looking at how Bible passages fit together with the ones that come before and after. It has to do with finding out what the writer was actually saying by tracing the points he makes from paragraph to paragraph. It is not proper to take a single sentence (or verse) out of its paragraph and make it say whatever we want it to say. If our explanation does not fit back into what the original writer was saying then our understanding of the verse must be wrong. A Bible passage cannot mean something today that the original readers would not have understood it to mean during their time.

People today **interpret**<sup>3</sup> the Bible message any way necessary to support their CLAIMS about their faith! They all FEEL confident about their relationship with God. In addition, they ALL DO THINGS to help God and to show how grateful they are for all HE does for them. Even though everyone today KNOWS that different groups teach and practice different things everyone seems to think that by only looking at the fact that everyone believes in God and gives Jesus the glory and credit for everything that this will somehow cover up the differences and division that exists just below the surface.

If it was not for the story Jesus HIMSELF told in **Matthew 7:21-23**, we could join in the joy and praise God as more and more groups are added to the list of churches! In the story he speaks about some people who, at first, seemed to be very good, **humble**, religious people who were **proud** to call Jesus "Lord!" As the story continues, we are amazed to hear Jesus condemn these "good" and "active" people! His words "I never knew you" stand in contrast to their own beliefs and personal convictions! **They BELIEVED in Jesus! They WORKED for Jesus! They ALL GAVE CREDIT to Jesus! How could Jesus disown them?** The key to understanding the whole story is simple. It is **NOT** enough for us to do religious things for God and then **trust in our feelings** to judge what is "true" and what is "false"!<sup>4</sup>

Jesus' point is simple. Each one of us must do "**the will of my Father** who is in the heavens" in order to have him as our "Lord"<sup>5</sup> and be pleasing to the Father! According to what Jesus said in another place, **THAT WILL** is to be found in the teachings that he brought and delivered to mankind. In **John 12:44-50**, Jesus showed all of us that the teachings he gave will be the basis for the Judgment, because those teachings were not his, but originated with the Father. He was just another of the many spokespersons that God used throughout time to deliver a message to the people of the world. Because of this, **we ALL MUST STUDY AND UNDERSTAND those teachings and then FOLLOW THEM CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY!**

If the "words I have spoken will be the judge on the last day", then does this not mean that **all TRUE TEACHINGS of Christianity must be found in the teachings of Christ?** Was this NOT the point of John in **2 John 1:9-11**? The answer must be "YES!" to **BOTH questions!** This is the reason why each person must learn to study the Bible! How can we place our trust in any other person to study for us? Can we simply trust religious leaders today who tell us that the Protestant Reformation was from God? What if they are wrong? You alone must study and decide these matters for yourself, because YOU will stand alone before the Lord and give an account for your beliefs! (**2 Corinthians 5:10**)

There are many matters that are discussed within the realm of "religion" today but few exceed the level of controversy or of social importance of "HOMOSEXUALITY". Studies from all corners of the globe show that homosexuality is becoming "**a normal and positive variation of human sexuality**"<sup>6</sup> and this increase in social acceptance has carried over into "Christianity" so that many denominations today not only teach tolerance for the homosexual lifestyle but some even teach that God accepts it. On the other side of the issue are "Christians" who adamantly oppose homosexuality and view those who practice such as outcasts to be scorned. As is so often the case in

<sup>3</sup> In **2 Peter 1:20-21** the Apostle Peter made a comparison between the idea of **understanding** something and **interpreting** something. Understanding means accepting the authority and explanation of another other than ourselves. Interpreting means explaining something based upon our own authority and opinion. The writers of the Bible did not receive a message from God and then write their interpretations of what they thought God was telling them. They wrote what God told them to write. **We are told to understand the Bible not interpret it!**

<sup>4</sup> **Proverbs 14:12** and **16:25!** A most amazing passage on this subject of trusting one's feelings is **2 Thessalonians 2:11-12**, where we discover that **if** people **do not want to believe and accept the truth** then God himself might cause those people to believe that what they **want** to hear is true even though it is really a lie!

<sup>5</sup> **Luke 6:46-49, John 14:15.**

<sup>6</sup> See Wikipedia article on Homosexuality (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homosexuality>)

"Christianity" well intentioned people circulate among the denominations searching for a church that teaches **what they want to believe** on the matter and God's on the matter gets overlooked entirely. So... what does **GOD really** say about homosexuality? The focus of this material will be, first, to examine the current status of homosexuality so that we might understand what it is and why it has become such a popular topic. Then we will explore (contextually) all available material from the Bible on the topic. Once we have completed both we can step back and see how God's view compares with the world's view and you can make up your own mind.

### **1B: Introduction: Why THIS again?**

After our first seminar on this topic I participated in several discussions in which people with great certainty **in their hearts** expressed the belief that, **contrary to whatever the BIBLE might say**, God **DOES** accept gay people into His Kingdom and that it is cruel and bigoted to suggest otherwise! (*Emotions run high whenever this is discussed, especially in gay people who consider themselves to be Christians.*)

In contrast, the most common way people today seem to justify the homosexual lifestyle some people is to simply deny the existence of God and such folks usually believe that any "religious discussion" that questions the morality of the gay lifestyle is ridiculous. As we pointed out in the first seminar, for them, "morality" is defined by social consensus and so if enough people agree on any matter then by definition, it becomes legal!<sup>7</sup> Such people maintain that in a free society, everyone has the right to pursue "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" as long as they do not hurt others in the process.

As long as you deny the existence of God you can hold such a position, however, if you believe such you had better be careful how you apply the principle because the day may come when people who now practice certain patterns of social behavior you are convinced are "immoral" might use your own arguments to impose their own beliefs upon you! While this possibility concerns us we will not explore it any further. (*Perhaps in a future seminar!*) Instead, we will revisit the topic of HOMOSEXUALITY for the benefit of those who believe in God and yet **insist** that God accepts the gay lifestyle.

What seems to be an ever growing number of "Christian" supporters of homosexuality are advancing a very simple argument. "*How can 'loving God' condemn a caring, loving and devoted relationship between two people of any gender combination who commit to one another until death?*" A few actually maintain that the Bible contains examples of homosexual relationships in people who were approved by God. One such example is said to be that of David who "loved" his very close friend Jonathan; the son of King Saul. In addition, they maintain that the condemnation of homosexuality that is expressed by "conservative Christianity" is hypocrisy because many "Christian" people have sex in all forms "outside of marriage" and think nothing of it.

While you won't get any argument out of me regarding the idea of "hypocrisy" in "Christianity" today, using such an argument to justify homosexuality, or any other thing for that matter, as something acceptable to God is simply not possible. **GOD'S TRUTH** cannot be determined, altered, or set aside completely by reactionary human reasoning and argumentation that does not agree with the details God reveals in HIS MESSAGE!

I truly sympathize with **everyone** in the discussion, but I wish everyone would take a step back for a second and consider a couple of very important things.

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<sup>7</sup> Please review the section entitled "Is homosexuality morally right?" on pages 6-7 of the first seminar's materials as well as all pages in Section 3A.

**1) EVERYTHING that is known about God and what he thinks regarding ANY matter must be revealed!**

A person can believe in the existence of God after seeing the power and might designed into the Universe, but the Universe itself does NOT give mankind even one simple instruction from HIM. God's will cannot be discovered through science. It cannot be inferred and deduced through observing the Universe--any of it! God's existence, sure, we can KNOW there is a God by looking at what is observable in the Universe, but **GOD'S WILL** can only be known through revelation! We only know what he tells us!

There are many claimed sources of "God's will" in the world today and each one has its explanation of who God is and what his instructions are for those desiring to receive blessings. **For anyone claiming to be a Christian, it is not possible to believe in God and say that the Bible is NOT the one true course of that will.** All "Christians" who talk about God teaching LOVE and tolerance are referring to things that are only found in the Bible. The majestic mountains, the awesome heavens, the thundering and destructive powers we see in storms and earthquakes say nothing God's instructions for man. If YOU want to know these things, you have to accept HIS message and that means that you must accept the Bible.

No person can FOLLOW GOD without accepting some kind of revealed message from HIM. The Bible claims to be the current and final message from God; for all people living in all times. If you believe in God, then you MUST accept the Bible message. If you accept it then you must accept **ALL of it** and you also must accept that no person has the authority to add to or take away from what is found in God's message--**because it is HIS message, not yours!**

God does not instruct us on any matter through the Creation. So if we do not get our information from the Bible, from where do we get it? The only possible sources would have to be other messages (books) or through private revelations direct from God. Is there a religious book claiming to be from God that endorses the gay lifestyle? I have not yet found any. What about private revelation? As stated earlier in our first session tonight, the major reason why there are now 41,000 "Christian" churches (and counting) is because so many people claim to have some kind of personal experience and guidance from God, to the point that they no longer feel it is necessary to follow **ONLY** what the Bible actually says.

In response, I simply want to remind us of all the warnings we read in Section 1A of this material. They came from the time of original Christianity and were written by the leaders Jesus left behind to continue his work. Those leaders believed and taught

**Without the Bible,  
we would not know ANY  
DETAILS about**

**GOD  
JESUS  
SIN  
MORALITY  
SALVATION  
GRACE  
JUDGMENT  
HEAVEN & HELL  
or ANYTHING else....**

**Diagram 3**

that their message was from God, that it was complete, that no person (or even an angel from heaven) had the authority to change it in any way, and that any person who might come to your house bringing a message that differed in any way should not be entertained in any way whatsoever!

This is very serious business! Therefore, perhaps we had better go back and take a closer look at **what God actually says** about homosexuality!

**2) If we look carefully at the context of the whole Bible we see a very simple relationship principle at work in God's dealings with mankind.**

The Bible message is divided into two parts. These are what we commonly call "The Old Testament" and "The New Testament".<sup>8</sup> Both are agreements that came from God but were offered to two different groups of people and at two different times. The OLD was exclusively for the nation of Israel and it came through Moses at Mt. Sinai when the people of Israel were traveling from Egypt to the "promised land."<sup>9</sup> This agreement was ended by God himself because of Israel's continued disloyalty!<sup>10</sup> It is sad to discover that "God's chosen people"--Israel--ended up in almost exactly the same situation in which they started; captives in a foreign land - SLAVES, without God! From their story, we learn what happens when people do not keep their part of an agreement with God!<sup>11</sup>

The second part of the Bible message is the NEW TESTAMENT--or New AGREEMENT! Jesus brought this one and it turned out to be very different from the first one in that it was not exclusive to one particular nation of people! Unlike the first one, which was only for Israel, anyone from any nation could join and be counted as one of "God's people". However, this second agreement turns out to be just like the first one in that it is conditioned upon loyalty and obedience. This should not worry anyone because every relationship we humans have is dependent upon loyalty. A quick review of your own personal history of relationships is all you need to prove that this is true.

The bottom line is simple. If you wish to have a relationship with God then you had better listen to and do **what HE says!** IF a person recognizes God, be it from the words of the Bible or from the testimony of the creation, and enters into an agreement with HIM then from that point forward he/she has one responsibility and one alone; OBEDIENCE! . Listen to God, understand what he says, and obey HIM! Disobedience ALWAYS brings punishment! This is the common relationship principle foundation of BOTH Agreements.<sup>12</sup>

I wish it were possible to agree with those who insist that God accepts homosexuality. However, that determination is not up to me. As one who claims to have a relationship with GOD, I must give way to what **HE SAYS** on the matter, understand it, and follow it no matter how I feel about it! In our first series of lessons on this topic, we noted that the passages in the Bible where God speaks on the matter state CLEARLY that God does NOT endorse homosexuality. **IF** God says it is NOT OK then how can I argue with HIM?

Oh...don't get me wrong... Of course I COULD argue and put forth whatever reasoning that might sound perfectly rational to me. I might even find a number of people who think exactly as I do on the matter, but just because a bunch of us who CLAIM to believe in God band together and SAY, "God is OK with the gay lifestyle!", or any other idea for that matter **does not make it true**. The voice of the people IS NOT the voice of

<sup>8</sup> The English word "testament" comes from a Greek word that means "agreement" or "contract."

<sup>9</sup> Exodus 19:1-5; Psalms 147:19-20

<sup>10</sup> See Jeremiah 11:1-23; 31:31-34; cf. Hebrews 8:13-ff

<sup>11</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:1-12

<sup>12</sup> This is simply a paraphrase of what can be found in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.



God! In the first seminar we conducted on this topic we examined **in detail** what the Bible text actually says, we reported those findings, and yet many sincere people still insist that God is OK with homosexuality. In HIS message, God placed several thoughts for us to consider any time we start to think that this Christianity stuff is some kind of democracy and that God somehow speaks through the majority. In the book of Jeremiah, in Chapter 10, the prophet speaks about the sad state of Israel and its lack of loyalty.

In the course of delivering his message, he says,

*“I know O Lord that the way of a man is not his, neither will a man go and direct his own journey.” (Jeremiah 10:23)*

The prophet Isaiah, speaking about this reality, quotes God as saying,

*“For my plans are not like your plans, nor are your ways like my ways, says the Lord, but as the heaven is apart from the earth, thus also my way is apart from your ways and the results of your thoughts apart from my thought.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)*

In addition to these there we need to look at 1 Corinthians chapter 2. If we begin at the start of the chapter we find the writer, Paul, speaking about how his message to these people, when he first came to see them, was not one that could be learned by human learning. In verse 7, he speaks about the message being based upon a “*hidden wisdom*” which comes from God, which no person of this world can discover or figure out. In verse 10, he adds that God, “*revealed it to us*”. How did GOD **reveal** it? Through HIS Spirit, which we have learned in past studies was the guide for those whom God used to deliver HIS message that we call the Bible.

If there is any doubt in your mind regarding Paul’s point then the simple question he asks, in verse 11, should cause all of us to think carefully about trusting in our own opinions, or in the opinions of others, in supposed messages ‘from the Holy Spirit’, or in the “crowd mentality” that seems to be guiding much of what is claimed to be Christianity today. It is a common sense question that puts everything we have so far suggested into perfect perspective...

*“For who among men knows the things of the man except the spirit of the man that is in him?”*

Simply put, I can only KNOW what you are thinking if YOU TELL ME!

Paul continues,

*“In the same way, no one has known the thoughts of the God except the spirit of the God.”*

In verse 12, he then continues,

*“And we did not receive the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from the God, so that we might know the things undeservedly given to us by him.”<sup>13</sup>*

Paul’s argument here makes the diagram on page 10 absolutely true! The only way **we can know** what God is thinking is **IF he tells us**. It cannot be figured out by man’s wisdom. It must be revealed and what HE tells us, then, is **HIS** message! The Bible is this message. Therefore, as mentioned repeatedly from the start, the issue regarding God’s **alleged** approval or disapproval of homosexuality **is decided by what GOD says**, not by what man says!

We really need to go back to the passages about homosexuality and probe deeper.

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<sup>13</sup> This should remind us of Peter’s discussion in 2 Peter 1:20-21!

Before we continue, I want to point out something you already know. **I am nobody!** DO NOT accept anything you read in this material without **first checking the information for yourself.** **IF** you find this to be an accurate representation of the context, then believe it because it is true, then help others to see the context and they will discover TRUTH. TRUTH is always true no matter who speaks it because it sets us free from confusion. Someone famous once mentioned this...<sup>14</sup>

## **2A: Can a *loving God* condemn people who love each other?**

Back in **Section 1B**, we mentioned how many sincere people who claim to be Christians are coming out in support of the gay lifestyle. When they see the loving, caring, devoted relationships of their gay neighbors and co-workers, and they see these folks with a sincere "love" for God in their hearts, they reason, "*How can a loving God condemn people who love each other - regardless of their gender?*" The more public the gay lifestyle becomes, the more straight people come to realize that gay people are just people. Some are good and some are not. All are just trying to find a place in the world, experience the same challenges, and seek after the same happiness as all other people in the world. They can be good and decent people when it comes to supporting community and being loyal friends and neighbors.

This fact causes many "Christians" to doubt whether the harsh position of intolerance they were taught in the past can be correct, especially when so many gay people now claim to be "Christians" and profess a "deep love" for God and Christ. In their hearts they wonder, "*How can **this** be WRONG?*"

Seeing that there is so much confusion in people's hearts in this matter, and yet remembering that God's thoughts are not like ours, we need to review the main passages in both the Old Testament and the New Testament that speak directly about the topic so that we can make **absolutely certain** that we did not misread something when we first studied them during the first seminar. (It is always important to check and re-check findings to make certain the process was carried out correctly and in context.)

The information found inside the text of the Old Testament focuses upon two passages. **Leviticus 18:22** speaks about sexual intercourse and **clearly** prohibits any man from having sex with another male. Literally it speaks of a man lying down in bed with a man as lying in a marriage bed with a woman. God considers the act of doing this to be "**detestable**" according to the text.

This same prohibition is repeated in **Leviticus 20:13** where we see the same wording as before. However, this time the punishment of **death for BOTH men** is stated. Why? Because they have done something God thinks is **detestable!** Please do not misunderstand this. God is CLEAR in these passages. Men having sex with other men is detestable.

Notice how there is no consideration whatsoever given for those men who **care deeply for one another** or for the **degree of commitment** the men might have for one another. There is also no consideration for what people might think a "loving God" should or should not do in such cases. God says the act of homosexual sex is detestable! To argue the point was useless.

### **SO WHAT ABOUT DAVID AND JONATHAN?**

Is it possible that David was involved in a homosexual relationship with his best friend Jonathan? The story of David and Jonathan clearly shows that they were very close. They "loved" each other very much and they made a special agreement between

<sup>14</sup> Jesus in John 8:32

them.<sup>15</sup> However, there is no evidence that this love was anything more than a deep friendship love.<sup>16</sup>

None of the other evidence regarding these two men (historical or otherwise) indicates that they were ever involved in a sexual relationship with one another or **any other men**.

For starters, David and Jonathan were Israelites and as we have seen above homosexual relationships were prohibited in God's law. Because they were in highly visible positions, David and Jonathan would not have been able to hide such a relationship and **if it existed** it would be difficult to believe that the prophet Samuel would NOT have condemned such a relationship.

In addition, we also know that BOTH David and Jonathan had heterosexual relationships. Both had wives and both had children. Jonathan's son was handicapped. After Jonathan died and he became king over all Israel, David took care of Jonathan's son because of his close relationship with Jonathan.

Finally, there is the simple fact that **God CHOSE David to be the king** of HIS people. The God who despises homosexuality would not choose a gay man to be **HIS** king!

Before we end this section of material, it is important for us to consider the context of how God defined sexual morality in HIS law. If we go back to the Leviticus passages cited earlier we find that aside from homosexuality, there were other acts that God considered to be just as detestable as that.

- If a man or woman had any kind of sexual contact with an animal they were to be put to death.<sup>17</sup>
- The punishment for adultery was death for BOTH parties.<sup>18</sup>
- People were forbidden to have sexual relationships with close relatives.<sup>19</sup>
- If a man had sex with an unmarried woman he had to marry her.<sup>20</sup>
- If an engaged woman was raped and did not cry out both she and the rapist would be killed but if an engaged woman was raped and cried out only the rapist would be killed.<sup>21</sup>

It must be noted here that these laws we found formed the basis of a special agreement or contract between God and the people of Israel. It was exclusively offered to Israel alone and no other nation had this agreement. The agreement began at Mount Sinai - recorded in Exodus 19 - and was the guiding law for the rest of what we call the Old Testament era. The other nations of the time did not have this agreement<sup>22</sup> and thus basically operated in a situation similar to what we see in our world today, where laws and moral standards are determined by "social norms". Historical records indicate that all ancient civilizations, who took their moral direction from what was considered acceptable to culture and society, struggled to maintain consistent moral values from generation to generation just as modern people do!

<sup>15</sup> 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:8, 17, 23.

<sup>16</sup> The word **AGAPE** - which simply means doing what is best for someone regardless of how you feel - is found in the Greek text. There is no sexual implication in this word.

<sup>17</sup> Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 18:23; 20:13

<sup>18</sup> Deuteronomy 22:22

<sup>19</sup> Deuteronomy 27:20-23

<sup>20</sup> Deuteronomy 22:28-29

<sup>21</sup> Deuteronomy 22:23-25

<sup>22</sup> Psalms 147:19-20... Why were the other nations rejected? Deuteronomy 9:4-5; 18:12; also Leviticus 18:24-25.

In contrast to this, **God gave one consistent moral standard** for HIS people and as long as they followed that standard of behavior they would be accepted by HIM.

In summary, we reviewed the Old Testament passages and confirmed that God has a very clear opinion about **sexual morality**. As far as homosexuality is concerned God's opinion seems pretty clear. If a male had sexual intercourse with another male then BOTH were to be killed! Putting this into context with the rest of the evidence, God not only prohibited homosexuality, but also bestiality, incest, adultery, and all sex outside of marriage. Having sex with an unmarried person meant you were married! Violations of those laws were considered **detestable** by God and **HE ordered** those guilty to be punishable by death!

This is what we found in the Old Testament the first time. Is there anything different that we found this time that would change the conclusion? Unfortunately not...

However, to be fair, we really need to review the information we found about homosexuality in the New Testament to see if we overlooked something the first time. Remember that there are things God said in the Old Testament that **HE himself** altered, and sometimes even eliminated, in **HIS** New Testament message.<sup>23</sup>

### **2B: It's in the words GOD CHOSE to represent HIS opinion!**

Many people today claim that God teaches this or that he says that and there are churches and teachers that will say just about anything any person is looking to hear about God and religion. 41,000 churches and counting, remember? What people seem to forget is that the only word on any topic that matters is God's word. He is the only God and his message is the only one that contains HIS thoughts! Therefore, in the final analysis, we really need to find out **what God has to say** on the matter. We just finished a review of the main Old Testament passages and what we found was not at all supportive of homosexuality.

The first time we looked at homosexuality in the New Testament, we began our search with **Romans 1:18-32**. We really need to start there again because this is where the topic is discussed with the most detail.

Looking at the context of what Paul is saying, he talked about God being very **ANGRY!** Why is this? Because even though people KNEW that God existed they denied HIM and held back the truth from themselves.

Then Paul said...

***22 Claiming to be wise they were made to be fools, 23 and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of a corruptible man, and of birds, and of four-footed beasts, and of reptiles.***

Because these people did not honor God they changed Him to become what THEY WANTED. All of this happened because they refused to accept Him even though they knew deep down He existed! As the text said, "they were made to be fools" and God was indeed angry.

<sup>23</sup> One major example is that God gave 10 commandments in the OLD Testament (Exodus 20:1-17), but he only gives 2 commandments in the NEW (Matthew 22:34-40). In addition, the OLD had a priesthood that offered animal sacrifices, but the NEW does not have animal sacrifices. The OLD set aside the seventh day as special, called Sabbath, while the NEW completely does away with Sabbath and sets aside Sunday, the first day of the week, as a special day for Christians. .

Paul did not stop there. In verses 24-25 we found ...

**24** Wherefore, the **GOD GAVE THEM OVER** in the eager desires of their hearts into an uncleanness of the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves; **25** who exchanged the truth of the God for a lie and they were devoted to and served what was created instead of the one who created, who is praised for ever. Amen!

Because God was angry, **HE let them do whatever they wanted**. This happened because **they insisted** upon making up things to replace the truth of God with a lie - which came from within themselves!<sup>24</sup> He also gave the first hint of what comes next; "into a dishonoring of their bodies."

What was this "dishonoring of the bodies" all about? Paul continued his thought in verses 26-27...

**26** On account of this the **GOD GAVE THEM OVER** into a suffering of dishonor, and **the females exchanged the NATURAL INTIMACY** for that which is against nature. **27** And likewise the males, after leaving behind the **NATURAL INTIMACY** of the female, were burned out with longing in their desire for one another, males with males, accomplishing for themselves the shame and receiving in themselves the fair penalty which was necessary for their deception.

Here is the place where God speaks about homosexuality in **HIS NEW** message.

First, there is the point about **natural intimacy** (verse 26). From the beginning of the Bible, God has defined this as males with females. The point here is that it is **against nature** for females to be with females or for males to be with males!

In verse 27, such a relationship is considered shameful and they are deceiving themselves. There is also an idea that those who do such things will receive some kind of "fair penalty" for their deception. This word could also be translated "payback" and one cannot help but wonder if this could be connected to all of the sexually transmitted diseases associated with the homosexual lifestyle.

There is one more point to take note of. Because people did this **God MADE IT** so that they would be **consumed** with passion for one another. He also placed into the situation a **fair penalty!**

There is still more in the passage...

**28** And just as they did not approve to have the God in their knowledge, the **GOD GAVE THEM OVER** into the un-approved mind, to do things that should not be done; **29** having been filled with every injustice, evil, greed, badness, filled with envy, murder, quarrels, deceit, meanness, gossip, **30** slander, hating God, violence, arrogance, boasting, thinking up bad things to do, being disobedience to parents, **31** stupid, untrustworthy, heartless, unmerciful, **32** who, **while knowing God's judgment, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do they do them but they approve those others who also practice them.**

Wow! We need to understand that there is a much larger picture here than just what God says about homosexuality. All people are supposed to live under God's authority. If everyone did this then there would be no problems in the world. Problems exist because people refuse to submit to God. They desire to do what pleases themselves. Paul's point here is simple. If you want to do this you are free to do so.

Verse 32 represents the typical situation where someone does a bad thing, which he/she KNOWS is "bad". When they are caught, the response is "everybody is doing it!" The problem with this is simple. It is not before other people that one must make a defense of the actions one does. Rather, it is before Jesus on the Day of Judgment!

<sup>24</sup> This same idea is mentioned by Paul again in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11!

Even though the context of Romans 1 is much larger than our study of homosexuality it is still an important piece of evidence to consider. There is one other passage that we need to look at before we end our research into the matter.

Let's go back and look again at **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**.<sup>25</sup>

*9 Or do you not know that unjust people will not inherit God's kingdom Do not be deceived! Neither sexual immoral people nor idolaters, nor adulterers, **nor effeminate men, nor men who have sex with other men, 10** nor thieves, nor greedy people, not drunks, not slanderers, not violent people will inherit God's kingdom! 11 And some of you were these things; but you were washed and set apart as special, but you were made right in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God!*

The topic of discussion here is **WHO will inherit God's Kingdom**. The Corinthian Christians were a tough bunch of people who came from a culture that was every bit as worldly as any that ever existed and will ever exist again! Looking at the list of things Paul mentions we can see that these people struggled as Christians with these issues. From what he says in verse 11, we can see that some of those Christians WERE these kinds of people BEFORE.

However, what is Paul's point? It appears that he is saying that they cannot continue doing THOSE THINGS and expect to "**inherit God's Kingdom**". That can only mean one thing. Doing those things--ANY OF THEM--**IS NOT** acceptable to God.

Let's begin in verse 9.

1. He tells them not to be "deceived" .. "no unjust person will inherit God's Kingdom."
2. Then he mentions "**sexual immorality**" and if you look at the secular dictionaries for Greek of that period you will find that this term was a general one that could cover any and ALL kinds of sexual things. The New Testament seems to use this term a lot to refer to sexual relations between people who are not married. This would mean that Christians ARE NOT supposed to "sleep around"... period.
3. Next in the list is "**idolatry**", which in that time was the practice of people keeping images in their houses to represent their "gods" and they would make shrines and treat them as if they were alive. (BOTH Agreements show that God does not like this one!)
4. Next is "**adultery**", which is defined in the secular dictionaries of that time's usage as sexual relations with someone who is not your spouse.
5. The next word literally meant "**soft**" in the language of the day, but just as we often use words to have a double meaning this was also used to describe a man who was what might be referred to as "**effeminate**". (You cannot argue with the language... And please don't shoot me! I have not claimed to know anything. Check it for yourself... please.)
6. The next word is **ARSENOKOITES** (ἀρσενοκίτης). It is a simple compound word. The first part is the word for a male (ARSEN-) and if you look carefully at the second part you really do not even need the dictionary to figure out what it means. We have the English word "coitus" that represents the act of sexual intercourse. This second part of this compound word is where that English word came from. This compound word is very clear and is impossible to be misunderstood. It specifically speaks of "**a male having homosexual sex with another male.**" There is no "wobble room" in this passage because this word did not mean anything different during the time of the Bible. This passage is directly speaking about someone being accepted BY GOD into HIS KINGDOM.

<sup>25</sup> See also 1 Timothy 1:8-11 for an additional list that includes ἀρσενοκίτης..

7. There are additional things God does not like. **STEALING, BEING GREEDY, BEING A DRUNK, BEING ABUSIVE** or **SLANDEROUS**, just **BEING DOWNRIGHT MEAN AND NASTY** to the point where all you want to do is devour people like a wolf kills and eats whatever it wants (ravenous)!

PLEASE do not misunderstand the point of the passage. **God says that NONE OF THESE KINDS OF PEOPLE are going to heaven!** This means that being single and having heterosexual sex with other single person, or being a married person having adulterous sex, is just as detestable to God as being a homosexual--and this is **not JUST about sex!** Being a greedy person, or being an alcoholic, or a drug addict, or a thief, is just as detestable to God as being a homosexual.<sup>26</sup>

There are no exceptions or "considerations" to be given by God. The only option a person who wishes "inherit God's Kingdom" is simple. **DO NOT DO THEM! ... ANY OF THEM!!! If you are doing them, then STOP DOING THEM! ALL of them!**

### ARE CHRISTIANS HYPOCRITS?

Earlier in this material, I mentioned how many in the gay community despise the "Christian" world's condemnation of the homosexual lifestyle because they see great hypocrisy in the lives of many people who CLAIM Christians. For example, a Christian father will condemn his gay son's lifestyle, but not condemn his daughter who is having regular sexual encounters with her boyfriend! A preacher will condemn the homosexual lifestyle while several of the teenage church members are regularly having sex with one another or their respective boyfriends or girlfriends from other churches, and/or while several adult members are involved in adulterous relationships. It is unfortunate that these things DO happen.

So... Do we then ignore what God says because some people who CLAIM to be HIS followers are not doing right? Of course not! God's truth is not set aside just because some people know what it is but choose not to follow it. This is precisely why God, through Paul, wrote the material in I Corinthians 6! God had Paul write those words so that EVERYONE would know that you cannot fool GOD and that God is no fool!<sup>27</sup>

God clearly has standards that HE EXPECTS all people to live by! From what we have seen those standards have not changed since the very beginning of time. Only those who submit to HIS standard will go to Heaven! So forget about what other people say or do! EVERYONE will be judged for their own choices and actions.<sup>28</sup>

### **3A: Is homosexuality the REAL issue here?**

We began this material as an attempt to answer some of the objections raised after our first seminar on the topic of homosexuality, but the real issue here goes way beyond homosexuality.

KNOWING the true will of God! This is the real issue.

Our situation is similar to what Paul described in Romans 1. We have three types of people. One group, like the non-Jews Paul spoke about, recognize that there is some kind of power at work in the universe but they refuse to acknowledge it as God! As a result, they use human reasoning to piece together a story in their hearts and minds that satisfactorily explains things to their liking. These folks BELIEVE their stories, and they find creative ways to support and spread their opinions to others. They operate under the premise: *"The more people I can convince to believe my story, the more likely it is to be true!"* Because they know God exists, but deny him, HE gives them over to their own deception.

<sup>26</sup> Please do not forget the list in 1 Timothy 1:8-11!

<sup>27</sup> Galatians 6:7-8

<sup>28</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10-12

A second group of people are like Israel in Romans 1. They claim to be God's people, but they are so mixed up in the teachings and traditions of men that their lives are far away from God, and they do NOT even realize it. They are religious people who claim to be Christians. They habitually attend some kind of religious services and follow the teachings of one of the 41,000 churches in the world. They BELIEVE WITH ALL THEIR HEARTS they are saved. They operate under the premise: *"The more people I can convince to believe my story, the more likely it is to be true!"* Because they know God exists, but deny him, HE gives them over to their own deception.<sup>29</sup>

Both of these groups share one thing in common with Adam and Eve who messed up so long ago in the Garden. They will hear a statement from God and understand what it says, but they will listen to other influences and use those influences to justify doing what their selfish self desires to do.

The third group is made up of people who truly seek and find HIS WILL. Once they find it, they make every effort to replace their current knowledge with God's knowledge. They live in the world and each day voices of influence try to convince them to be selfish and disobey God, but each time this happens they remember that they have the free will choice to do whatever they desire and they choose God!<sup>30</sup> As time passes and more of HIS will becomes known to them, more and more change happens so that the older they get the less like themselves they look and the more like Jesus they look.<sup>31</sup>

They are committed to spending their remaining time on earth completing a change of lifestyle that will be based upon the one and only pattern for ALL people in all places and times - what God teaches in the Bible.

Why the Bible? It is because of the point we brought out in Section 1B. We may be able to see God in the Creation, but the Creation does not give us one single instruction from HIM. Those instructions cannot be learned by science or by human reasoning. Just as it is among us, where the only way one person can know the thoughts of another is if that other person will tell him, the only way we will know what God is thinking is if he tells us. God told us what he wants us to do and that message is the Bible and this is why Christians follow the Bible and ONLY the Bible.

We began this journey in search of what God says about homosexuality and I sincerely hope that you understand what God REALLY says about the matter. The topic of homosexuality shows us how important it is to study the Bible and how dangerous the religious world really is. With over 41,000 versions of "Christianity" out there in the world, it can be very difficult to find the TRUTH. People can be very persuasive and that can lead to much confusion. Differing opinions, differing teachings, differing names and leaders can leave people wondering, "Which one is the right one?"

Things are not so bad. Anyone can find truth as long as they study the Bible, put all passages into their context, and make conclusions based upon all evidence. **This will lead to TRUTH and that will lead to freedom, just as Jesus promised!**

At the beginning of this seminar I mentioned that a number of people who believe in God also believe that homosexuality is accepted by God regardless of what the Bible might say. If the Bible is the only source of God's message, and if God condemns homosexuality in that message, then how can any person say "...**contrary to what the Bible might say**, I believe..." and consider himself/herself to be a believer?

We are free to believe whatever we want to believe. Just because someone CLAIMS to speak for God does not mean they are telling the truth. Get your truth from the source!

<sup>29</sup> Matthew 7:21-23, 2 Timothy 4:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12; 2 John 1:9-11

<sup>30</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:13

<sup>31</sup> This "metamorphosis" is described in Romans 12:1-2 and in 2 Corinthians 3:18 where "the Lord" is said to be the target of the transformation!



Study the Bible. Understand what God says. Then DO IT, no matter what the consequences might be. You may not be popular in the world, but you will be called FAITHFUL by God, and that will be really neat!

### **3B: SUMMARY & QUESTIONS**

The moral problem facing the world today is a great one and a solution will not be easy to implement, but **can we say that the problem is too great and cannot be solved?** Of course not! Jesus taught us that with God all things are possible! The fact that there are hundreds of religious opinions and tens of thousands of "Christian" church in the world simply means that we all need to be very careful what we believe.

In summary, what have we discovered in our journey to better understand homosexuality?

1. The **world says** that homosexuality is a "natural" part of human behavior and nothing to be concerned about.
2. Many "Christians" now say that homosexuality is accepted by God.
3. In contrast we found that the Bible speaks of homosexuality (in the case of both men and women) as being "unnatural".
4. As far as God's opinion on the matter, we saw that God thinks homosexuality is "**detestable**" and that **no homosexual person will inherit His kingdom!**
5. We emphasized that there can be no confusion on these matters because God uses terms that specifically speak of **men having sex with other men as with a woman** (ARSENOKOITES) as being wrong.
6. Therefore: God does **NOT** approve of homosexuality!

So, can a person be a homosexual and inherit the Kingdom of God? **NO!**

However, we also discovered that homosexuality is only one of many things God does not like. Therefore, to be fair to this study we must ask the following additional questions just as we did about homosexuality.

- Can a person who claims to be a Christian be involved in sexual relationship outside of marriage (premarital or adultery) and inherit God's kingdom? **No.**
- Can someone who is always drunk? **No.**
- Can a thief, or a person who always says bad things about people, or a kidnapper, etc...? The answer is still **NO because GOD said NO!**

In the final analysis it all comes down to one question. "**WHO are YOU going to believe in these matters?**" You cannot simply ignore the problem of homosexuality because what the world says and what God says are very different. One thing we do NOT want you to do is accept what we say! The only one you should trust is God. This is why from the start we have been telling you to do your own research and believe what God says.

### **REMEMBER....**

**Trust no one but God! Study the Bible for yourself. Let us help you learn HOW TO STUDY so that you can begin your own journey to know God!  
Enroll in classes today!**