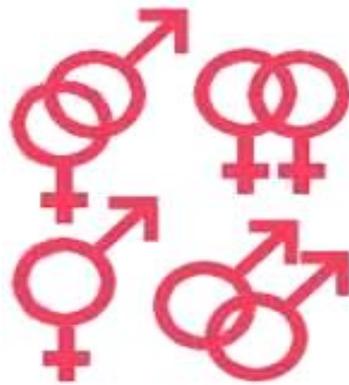


Christian Education



*Social Issues 101: Homosexuality*

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Homosexuality is one of several major social issues that is dividing the nation in more than one way. People in different locations have differing views. People of different age groups have different views. People in the same family may also be divided on this issue. Some people who believed one way now believe another. Some people find some aspects of homosexuality appealing and other aspects as unappealing. The view of the nation prevailed one way from her beginnings until the 1960's. Since then, the nation has been on an ever increasing pace toward change. What was once thought to be a sin, and then a mental illness, is not only being embraced by many people, but has advanced to include marriage laws for homosexual couples, both male and female.

The winds of change in the United States have been aided by many active and vocal pro-homosexual groups. On the other side, people and groups that believe homosexuality is wrong are those mostly associated with religion. The Church has not been silent on this social issue. Unfortunately, no matter where your personal beliefs may rest at the moment, the Church is not united on this issue. Division exists across denominational lines and in some instances, strong divisions exist within denominations. While all groups have been allowed to express their religious beliefs, there is one group that is criticized for its beliefs, that being conservative Bible believing Christians.

### **A Church Divided Can Be United**

The Christian Community, the Church at large, is divided. This division is motivating discussions among Christians. Christians are followers of Jesus and the Bible, God's Holy Word. While Christians are at different levels of maturity, knowledge, and wisdom, Church leaders across denominational lines have different views on this social issue. Some are very accepting of the homosexual

lifestyle, even homosexual marriage and homosexual service in the Church. Others are very confident in the belief that homosexuality is sin and offensive to God our Creator. Some, to be sure, fall in between these two extremes. The challenge for the Church is to know what God thinks and says on the subject. Both extreme views cannot be right. And a position in the center sounds unconvincing and weak. Thus, one extreme is right and the other is wrong.

The basis for declaring what God says on the subject cannot be personal speculation of the mind, thoughts, and reasons, nor to claims people make as to having heard from God. All of these are too easily manipulated and inconsistent. The basis for declaring what God says on *any* subject *is* the Word of God. If the Bible addresses this issue, then Christians should agree on what is written. If the issue is clear and understandable, then that is what Christians and the Church should declare. To declare anything contrary to the clear understanding of the Bible is to be in opposition to the Bible, God's Word, and God Himself.

## **Making Judgments**

Before seeking to know what God says through His Word, one matter of interpretation and declaration should be addressed. This is also an issue of fairness and understanding. Some would state this even more strongly: this is an issue concerning judgment and condemnation. Find and complete the following verses and you will learn exactly what the fuss is all about.

Matthew 7:1, HCSB<sup>2</sup>: "Do not \_\_\_\_\_, so that you won't be \_\_\_\_\_."

John 8:7, HCSB: ..."The one without \_\_\_\_\_ among you should be the first to \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ at her."

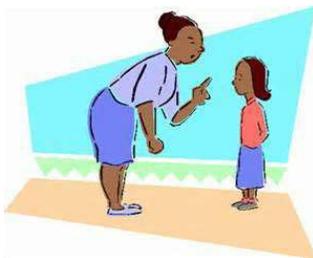
These and other words like this are used by some people against people who have differing views than their own. This paper will not be so trivial. An open and honest discussion on serious issues has to be mature and objective. No matter what side of the issue you are currently on, having a solid moral foundation for your belief is critical. The use of criticism and sarcasm does not make a solid foundation, especially not for the Christian. Find and complete the following declarations in the Bible that limit the meaning of the previous verses.



John 7:24, HCSB: “Stop \_\_\_\_\_ according to outward appearances; rather \_\_\_\_\_ according to righteous judgment.”

2 Timothy 3:16, HCSB: All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_, for training in righteousness,

Most everyone will agree that stealing is wrong. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 10 commandments as revealed in Exodus 20. Since God declares plainly that stealing is wrong, parents would be wrong to not tell a child who just stole something that stealing is wrong. Teaching the child right and wrong is not



judging inappropriately, nor is such corrective reproof condemnation and hatred. In fact, telling the child that stealing is wrong is a righteous judgment based on the Word of God and is training and correcting that child in the ways of righteousness. This is an act of love for the child and society. After all, stealing is a sin against God and society. One might go so far as to say that any sin committed is actually stealing away one’s own life, robbing oneself of true life. Sin has such negative consequences.

So here is the major issue regarding homosexuality. If homosexuality is normal behavior, possibly even a personality disposition from birth, the Bible will not speak against homosexuality as sin. And if this lifestyle is acceptable by God, then acceptance by all mankind is in order. But if homosexuality is sin, not only will the Bible speak to the issue, but so should God-fearing Bible-believing Christians. Consistency with God's Word is very important in the Church and for the world outside to see. To not warn people who choose sinful behavior and are destroying themselves would be as great an error as the sin. To warn against sin is not an act of condemnation and hatred, but rather an act of love and concern.

## Defining the Terms

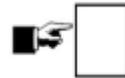
Now, consider the definitions of this lifestyle<sup>3</sup>. The word homosexual means a person who has a sexual attraction toward members of the same sex. This sexual attraction or desire can be a man attracted to a man or a woman attracted to a woman. Male homosexuals are often referred to as *gay* and female homosexuals as *lesbian*. The use of the word *gay* is a relatively new term and is perhaps offensive to families who have the last name of *Gay*. After all, who do you know with the last name of *Homosexual* or *Lesbian*? However, the word *gay* has a history of being associated with immorality dating back to the seventeenth century. A *gay man* was a womanizer, a *gay woman* was a prostitute, and a *gay house* was a brothel. In 1868, Will S. Hays, a female impersonator, wrote the song "The Gay Young Clerk in the Dry Goods Store"<sup>4</sup>. As men acted more like women prostitutes, the term *gay* was used by these men to describe them selves. On the female side of homosexuality, the first use of *lesbian* was in the 1590's poetry of Sappho, a woman who lived on the Greek island of Lesbos. The last word of importance here is *sodomy*, which is most often used to refer to sexual (anal) intercourse between two men. Many state and national governments have laws that criminalize sodomy. The English word comes from the name of an ancient city told about in the Bible called Sodom.



### **The History of Sodom**

Sodom is a good place to start on this journey to discover how God views homosexuality and what He has to say about this lifestyle. Sodom is first referenced in Genesis 10:19 in conjunction with mapping out the national borders of the Canaanites. Later in Genesis, when the herdsmen of Abraham and Lot started arguing over grazing land for their respective herds, Sodom is referred to as a city in the Jordan Valley. The valley was green and lush, just right in the eyes of Lot. But, appearances do not always tell the whole story. A house may look beautiful and inviting, with great curb appeal, on the outside, but on the inside that same house might be a total mess, even to the point of being dangerous to live in and uninhabitable. So too, the outward appearance of the valley did not reveal the inner lifestyle of the people living therein.

Find and read Genesis 13:10-13. Check the box when completed.



This passage informs us that God will judge and destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. And this passage states the root reasons why God is going to destroy these cities. Write in the following blanks the two descriptive qualities of the men who lived in Sodom as revealed in Genesis 13:13.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

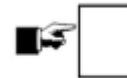
(2) \_\_\_\_\_

The men of Sodom were evil, wicked, sinners beyond average. They exceeded others in their sin against God. They were rebellious. They lived contrary to the standards which God established. They lived this way not because they did not know any better. They knew they were sinning against God. They knew and continued to do so out of a rebellious pride and arrogance. In a way, they flaunted their sin before God Almighty, daring Him to do something. What did

they do that was so evil? The specifics are not given here, only that Lot chose to move to the neighborhood that was not as nice and friendly as it looked.

Genesis 14 tells us that Sodom was one of several cities to be involved in war. The cities of the valley, including Sodom, became subject to several conquering kings. Fourteen years later, they rebelled against these kings. That rebellion was crushed as the wealth and the people were taken away into captivity. Lot was among the captives. After Abraham heard what happened to his nephew, he traveled many miles to attack and gain Lot's freedom. In fact, Abraham brought back all the wealth and the people of Sodom. Before the king of Sodom, Abraham honored God Most High with a tithe given through the priest king Melchizedek. God was showing kindness to the Sodomites and offering them a second chance. However, they did not turn from their evil and sinful ways.

Find and read Genesis 18:16--19:29. Check when completed.



Having just read this passage, how do you feel? What are you thinking? Write down your thoughts about God, Abraham, the sins of Sodom, and or judgment.

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The LORD said, "...their sin is extremely serious" (Genesis 18:20, HCSB). There were not even ten people in Sodom who feared the LORD God and could be called righteous (Genesis 18:32). Lot was shown kindness even as he showed kindness to the two angels who entered into the city of Sodom. There is no reason to think that Lot saw them as angels. Abraham saw them as men (Genesis

18:2, 8, 16, 22). Hebrews 13:2 states, “Don’t neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it” (HCSB). Surely the men of Sodom did not know they were angels. All of the young and old men of the city surrounded Lot’s house and demanded Lot send the newest visitors to the city out in the night so they could have sexual relations with them, homosexual relations, homosexual rape. Lot offered his virgin daughters instead! But the men of Sodom refused and sought to break down the door. The men of Sodom even accused Lot of being an unrighteous judge (Genesis 19:9). The angels intervened and protected Lot and his family. They even let Lot and his family escape Sodom before God’s judgment fell.

Does this passage define homosexuality as sin? \_\_\_\_\_ Rape, forced sexual relations on an unwilling victim, is a sin. But what about homosexual relations between two willing people? This passage does reveal the desired rape to be part of the evil and sinful rebellion of the people against God. Thankfully, the Bible is even more specific on this subject.

The passages below stress the importance of learning from the past. The first relates to the sins of Israel. The second relates directly back to Sodom and Gomorrah. They were written for our benefit, that we should learn from them. That makes this passage relevant to us today.

*Now these things became examples for us, so that we will not desire evil as they did. Let us not commit sexual immorality as some of them did, and in a single day 23,000 people fell dead. Now these things happened to them as examples, and they were written as a warning to us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.*

(1 Corinthians 10:6,8,11 HCSB)

*In the same way, Sodom and Gomorrah...committed sexual immorality and practiced perversions...and serve as an example by undergoing the punishment of eternal fire. (Jude 7, HCSB)*

### **The Laws of God for the Good of Man and Society**

When Moses and the people of Israel were at Mount Sinai, Moses received the Law of God for the people of Israel. The Law, or laws of the Law, was intended to help Israel become a fully functioning society, one totally dependent on God rather than man. These laws gave structure to society and peace among the citizens who would honor and keep them. These laws would enable Israel to enter into the Promised Land and establish a national identity. By keeping the Law of God, Israel and all followers of the Law, would be blessed by God and not found to be in rebellion, wickedness, and sin against Him. Among the laws are passages which focus on a sexual code of conduct; in other words, God's instructions regarding appropriate and inappropriate human sexual relations.

God addressed sexual relations because sexual perversions were prevalent among the Canaanite peoples who were about to be removed from the land Israel was receiving from God. Their sexual perversions were not merely sins against God. They affected everyone's life in society. Not only did people get mistreated in a similar way as the Sodomites wanted to mistreat the angelic beings in Lot's house, children were sacrificed in pagan temples that housed male cult prostitutes who performed sex with worshipers as an act of worship. The various societies of Canaan were going to be judged by God and removed from the land even as God did to the Sodomites. They are examples and warnings for us today. Find and complete the following passage:

Leviticus 18:24-25, HCSB: *"Do not \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves by any of these [practices], for the nations I am driving out before you have*

\_\_\_\_\_ themselves by all these things. The land has become  
\_\_\_\_\_, so I am \_\_\_\_\_ it for its sin, and the land will  
\_\_\_\_\_ out its inhabitants

**Warning:** What you are about to be asked to read in the Bible is very disturbing. People are sometimes surprised at the graphic nature and straight to the point passages in the Bible. You are about to read all the verses that wrap around the passage quoted above in order to know the exact practices of the people in Canaan. Read Leviticus 18 and check the box when completed.

Words used to describe the practices of the Canaanite peoples are *shame, depraved, defiling, profane, detestable, perversion, and abominations*. Reading Leviticus 18 should bring thoughts and emotions of disgust. From God's perspective, the people who practiced these things were sick, sin-sick. They were morally and mentally perverted. If you saw yourself described in the Word of God, God is opening your eyes to His ways and a better life. Repent, renounce your sexual immoralities, even those committed in the heart and mind only, and ask God to forgive you. He will begin the healing process with forgiveness.

Stop and pray to God. Ask Him to turn our society away from sexual perversions.

When removed from the passage, Leviticus 18:22 (*You are not to sleep with a man as with a woman; it is detestable.*) sounds like a night's rest. But in context, there is no mistaking that the reference is to laying with a man sexually as with a woman. The Hebrew word used here is *shakab*<sup>5</sup>, which literally means to lie down. The word is used many times in the Old Testament and references both a time of rest and a time of sexual relations. Even in society today, people use the word *sleep* to relate to sex by asking, "Did he sleep with her?" Homosexuality was part of the societal sins of the Canaanites, as with the Sodomites, and God's

judgment fell on them. And Israel was warned not to follow their practices or they too would be removed from the land.

Leviticus 20 is very similar to Leviticus 18. The main difference in the list of sexual perversions is that God is giving society the right to punish her own citizens for wrong doing. This gives the governing officials the right to step in, clean up society, and thus prevent a future judgment by God and keep the land in good standing with God. Those who are guilty of wrong doing and are punished will be examples and a warning to others not to do what they have done. The passage relating to homosexuality again uses the word *sleep* and not sexual intercourse. This is because homosexual behavior is not sexual intercourse, but a misuse of the body. Note the punishment for homosexuality in this passage:



Leviticus 20:13, HCSB: *If a man sleeps with a man as with a woman, they have both committed an abomination. They must be put to death; their blood is on their own hands*

### **Marriage, Society, and Jesus**

The plan of God from the very beginning was, and continues to be, a man and a woman, a husband and a wife, a marriage union that was designed to work together for the good of mankind. Adam, when he was first introduced to Eve, called her woman and wife (Genesis 2:22-24). God said to the first man and woman, the first family, *'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it'* (Genesis 1:28, HCSB). Such reproduction, the bearing of children, is not naturally possible in homosexual relationships. For a child to be conceived and born, there is the need for a man and a woman. Modern science and reproductive technologies do not justify sinful behavior. Man in his creative abilities and experimentation do not rise above God and His wisdom and authority. Man will still answer to God.

Now maybe you are thinking, "So far this paper has addressed the Old Testament. And the Old Testament refers to the old ways. Surely the New Testament proclaims love and grace and new ways to live and love." Indeed, we must consider the New Testament. Is there any word from Jesus on the subject? Are there any words in the New Testament that address homosexuality? Yes.

Jesus is not quoted as having specifically addressed homosexuality. He is, however, quoted for speaking about marriage. He was responding to a question about divorce. Find and complete the following verses.

Matthew 19:4-6, HCSB: *'Haven't you read,' He replied, 'that He who created them in the beginning **made them \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and He also said: **For this reason a man will leave his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and be joined to his \_\_\_\_\_, and the two will become one flesh?** So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, man must not separate.'***

Jesus declared what marriage was from the very beginning, between a man and a woman, one male with one female. He also spoke to reproduction in that a man leaves his father and mother to be with his wife. Both a male and a female are necessary to produce a child. This is God's plan for man and society. A child is to be raised in a home with a father and a mother, a male and a female. Great confusion has only just begun when a society accepts people playing opposite roles, when a man starts acting and even dressing as a woman and when a woman starts acting and dressing like a man. What will this generation of children stand for when they are raised by people pretending to be someone they are not? When the people who raised them lived a lie and a deception? If they model their parental figures, society will suffer in many different ways. Jesus said, *'Therefore what God has joined together, man must not separate.'* God

put together a male and a female, opposites that fit together like puzzle pieces, a perfect match. The words of Jesus sure sound like a warning. Man will answer to God if he separates a husband and wife.

Jesus may have addressed homosexuality more directly. The Apostle John ended his Gospel with these words, *'And there are also many other things Jesus did, which, if they were written one by one, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written'* (John 21:25, HCSB). The fact the Gospels are silent on the subject of homosexuality are neither an endorsement nor a condemnation. However, their silence does imply what has already been revealed is still true.

### **The Inspired Writings of Paul**

The great part of the New Testament is the inspired writings of the Apostle Paul. He made at least three specific references to homosexuality. Two are similar in nature and one is sure to cause a stir.



Find Paul's first letter to Timothy and read 1 Timothy 1:5-11.  
Check the box when completed.

Paul stresses the motive for teaching, preaching, and advocating the Bible is love from a pure heart. Love does not seek to hurt and destroy people; rather, love seeks to help and build up people. By referring to the law, Paul is referring to the instructions of God as given through Moses found in the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul states that the law is for people who are doing wrong. In other words, for people who are in need of teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). Among those who are in need are *the sexually immoral and homosexuals* (1 Timothy 1:10). He states that homosexuality, along with the other items mentioned, is *contrary to sound teaching* (1 Timothy 1:10).

That which is sound is solid and stable. But that which is not sound is not solid and not stable. Those who pursue and participate in sexual immorality and homosexuality are unstable, being tossed about by the winds and waves of rebellion and sin. Their instability may not be noticed at first, but over time, they will prove to be morally weak, spiritually unsound, and emotionally unstable.

A second passage by Paul really highlights this unsoundness. The passage reveals how a person descends into the dark world of sin and shame. This passage needs also to be marked with a disclaimer. What you are about to read is disturbing.



Find and read Romans 1:16-32. Check the box when complete.

What bothers you about this passage? Did you see yourself or one you love?

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The Word of God covers a lot of ground in this one passage. Is the ground in America crying out in sorrow because of such sins? Is America setting herself up for a fall and perhaps even God's judgment? One part of this passage stands out as a great danger to every person and a horror to every parent and family. That is the very last verse. Complete the following passage:

Romans 1:32, HCSB: *Although they \_\_\_\_\_ full well God's just sentence--that those who \_\_\_\_\_ such things deserve to die--they not only do them, but even \_\_\_\_\_ others who \_\_\_\_\_ them.*

Pride, arrogance, and rebellion put mankind in opposition to the God of grace, mercy, and love. That will not end well for them. But what is so alarming is that

such people applaud, encourage, and support others who do the same thing. That means, not only do they not warn others of their wretched life, they actually encourage people to join with them. The more the merrier? No! Misery loves company? Yes! Unfortunately, such people may recruit you, or worse yet, your son or daughter. Since they applaud those who practice such deeds, they will also fight against those who would discourage such behavior.

Now, notice the words on the social issue before us:

Romans 1:25-27, HCSB: *They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served something created instead of the Creator....This is why God delivered them over to degrading passions. For even their females exchanged natural sexual intercourse for what is unnatural. The males in the same way also left natural sexual intercourse with females and were inflamed in their lust for one another. Males committed shameless acts with males and received in their own persons the appropriate penalty for their perversion.*

There is no way to miss the directness of this passage. Homosexuality, both male and female, is addressed here. Homosexuality is called a *degrading passion, unnatural, lust, shameless acts, and a perversion*. The reason homosexuality becomes a major societal issue is that such a society has turned away from God. While not everyone turns away from God, many do. Think about the United States. What has become a major study topic in science that totally dismisses God? Evolution. Evolution denies God as Creator. Many scientists will not even permit a conversation on the first verse recorded in the Bible: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth* (Genesis 1:1, HCSB). The Supreme Court removed Christian prayer from the lips of teachers in 1963. Since then, God and His Holy Word have been pushed out as having any educational and moral

relevance in society in general. Why does the name Jesus cause such a stir? Since higher education has turned away from God, that has impacted all of society. Man is no longer encouraged to keep godly morals and standards, but to do what feels right and to make oneself happy. Enter in, homosexuality.

*This is why God delivered them over to degrading passions* Paul wrote (1:26, HCSB). Read that carefully. Yes, *God delivered them over to*. This is the result of man suppressing the truth about God. Read Romans 1:18-20 again.

Does the Bible declare God as the cause for homosexuality? \_\_\_\_\_



May it never be so! Man is the cause of his own moral decline. Man is without excuse. James wrote, *“Each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desires”* (James 1:14, HCSB). Man has denied the Creator and focused on the created. God has delivered them over to their own desires. God has released them from His protection. God has allowed them to experience life without God, without God’s influence and protection. Ezekiel, a prophet in captivity in Babylon saw the following causes of Israel’s involvement in homosexuality: pride, plenty of food, a comfortable position of ease, and selfishness revealed by not helping people in need (Ezekiel 16:46-52). Left to himself, man goes on a downward slide.

To be fair, there are people involved with homosexuality that claim to be, and may well be, Christians who acknowledge God as Creator and Jesus as Lord and Savior. How do they fit this passage in Romans? Remember the last verse. Those who enter homosexuality because of their moral depravity encourage and applaud others who consider the lifestyle. That means some people will become involved in homosexuality because of temptations and enticements to join in the

cause. Their initial involvement may have nothing to do with their beliefs about origins of the world, but everything to do with sin and fleshly lusts. Again, man left to himself, goes on a downward slide and wants to gather as many supporters as he can. This means that there may be some of God's children who fall into the trap. King David was a man after God's Own heart; however, temptation got the best of him when he initiated an adulterous encounter with Bathsheba. King David was wrong. And when confronted with his sin, he repented (2 Samuel 12:1-14; Psalm 32; Psalm 51). There were consequences for David's sin against God which David brought upon himself. Likewise, the Bible reveals consequences for involvement with homosexuality, whether one denies God or falls by temptation. And just as David repented, so too must the one involved with homosexuality turn away from that which God calls sin with a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51).

### **Hope Found in Both the New and Old Testaments**

A third passage by Paul may be the shocker of the day to some people. This passage also reveals two very different things regarding homosexuality and those who participate in that which is a perversion to God.

*Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: no sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy people, drunkards, revilers, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom (1 Corinthians 6:9-10, HCSB).*

The first of the two very different things about homosexuality is that the Bible declares those who practice homosexuality will not inherit God's kingdom. To be outside the kingdom of God is to be without eternal life. That means the future is not good, but very bad. The passage continues:

*Some of you were like this; but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11, HCSB).*

*Some of you were like this*, wrote Paul. Paul knew what the people were like. They were *sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy, drunkards, revilers, and/or swindlers*. They *were*, meaning they *were*, but are no more! That means people can change. People can go from Biblically immoral to Biblically moral, from ungodly to godly, from sinner to saint. Those who were *sexually immoral* were now sexually moral. Those who were *idolaters* were now worshippers of the One True God. Those who were *adulterers* were now respectful of their own and/or other people's marriage. Those who were *male prostitutes* were now out of the prostitution business. Those who were living a *homosexual* life were no longer embracing that lifestyle. They repented and renounced the homosexual lifestyle. They were open to, and no doubt some had, embraced the opposite sex in a godly marriage relationship. What may be easier to understand, those who practiced the lifestyle of stealing stole no more. Those who were greedy were now generous. The drunkard quit abusing alcohol. The reviler was now a peaceful citizen. The swindler was now an honest business man. People can and do change.

The Prophet Isaiah also knew that people can change with God's help. Isaiah proclaimed the Word of God to the people of Judah long before the fall of Judah and Jerusalem which came about because of disobedience to the Word of God. Isaiah referred to the governmental and religious leaders as rulers over Sodom and Gomorrah (Isaiah 1:10). They were leaders over a corrupt and perverse society. Isaiah explained that God had had enough of their offerings, presence in the courts of the Temple, solemn assemblies, prescribed festivals, and prayers (Isaiah 1:11-15). God declared, "*When you lift up your hands [in prayer], I will*

*refuse to look at you; even if you offer countless prayers, I will not listen” (Isaiah 1:15, HCSB). God would, however, also encourage the people through Isaiah. He said, “Remove your evil deeds from My sight....Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool” (Isaiah 1:16-18, HCSB). God proclaimed the hope for changed lives.*

People can go from bad to good. The key is a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ! When Paul states *you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11, HCSB)* he is writing about the change that takes place through faith in Jesus. The message Jesus proclaimed was one of repentance and faith. Repentance is allowing Jesus to be the Lord, the Master, and Authority over one’s life rather than self. When Jesus is the authority, He begins to reshape and mold the heart of a person along with the desires of a person through the Holy Spirit. With this change comes a new way of living life. Gone are the old ways and in are the new ways (2 Corinthians 5:17). Gone is the immorality and in is the morality. Gone is the ungodliness and in is the godliness. People may be able to change some things about themselves by themselves. But what seems impossible to man is very much possible with God!

*Then Jesus said to him, ‘If You can? Everything is possible to the one who believes’ (Mark 9:23, HCSB).*

*Looking at them, Jesus said, ‘With men it is impossible, but not with God, because all things are possible with God’ (Mark 10:27, HCSB).*

*I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13, HCSB).*

*Flee from sexual immorality! Every sin a person can commit is outside*

*the body, but the person who is sexual immoral sins against his own body (1 Corinthians 6:18, HCSB).*

*No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity. God is faithful and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape, so that you are able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13, HCSB).*

*And the world with its lusts is passing away, but the one who does God's will remains forever (1 John 2:17, HCSB).*

There is hope in Jesus Christ! Do you need help finding the way of escape? Pray. Ask Jesus to deliver you and become your Lord, Savior, and Friend. Seek the additional counsel of a godly Christian leader. Look for the way of escape. Do you know someone in bondage to the homosexual perversion? Help that friend or family member by sharing these truths from God's Word or by sharing a copy of this Christian Education material.

### **A Final Word**

The Word of God reveals lifestyles for what they are, good and pure resulting in God's blessing, or bad and corrupt resulting in destruction. The choice is God, His Word, and ways; or man, his will, and ways. God's Word is truth. Man has twisted His Word for personal pleasure without regard for future consequences.

*The untaught and unstable twist them to their own destruction, as they do with the rest of the Scriptures. Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard, so that you are not led away by the error of the immoral and fall from your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:16b-18a, HCSB).*

Societal issues come and go. Social trends come and go. Some are fun and lighthearted, like the pet rock or big bell bottom pants. Others seem to attract a strong following until an unforeseen tragic ending occurs. The issue of homosexuality does not have a history of good endings. Even today there are warnings about sexually transmitted diseases, increased risk for certain cancers, and shorter life spans. God is still the Creator and Sustainer of this world and all that is herein. God has set the boundaries wherein good and right living is found and blessed. Anything outside those boundaries is sin and will be met with eventual judgment. Since God has already brought unmistakable judgment on people and societies that fully embraced homosexuality and the ills that come with this lifestyle, we can expect a repeat of that judgment on societies that fail to heed the warnings from the past. God has never lowered His standards according to the societal trends of any nation.

## End Notes

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<sup>3</sup> All English word definitions are from *Webster's New World College Dictionary*. Fourth Edition. Cleveland, Ohio: Wiley Publishing, Inc., 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Dictionary.com. *Online Etymology Dictionary*. "Gay." Douglas Harper, Historian. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/gay>.

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