

Homosexuality

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The following study was originally a personal letter occasioned by a friendly discussion during a time of church fellowship. It is amazing how things can come from fellow believers discussing God's word. I originally published the letter on this site in it's unchanged form. I am including it now, in a substantially modified form. Those of you who downloaded the old letter, will want to get this new version, because it is a little more true to the tone of Paul's discussion. I think the old version left out some important considerations about the forgive-ability of this sin and the powerful ramifications of the transformed life in Christ. I hope that the changes I have made will be more helpful to people who are struggling with this issue. It is a sin, no different than any other. It can be fully forgiven and the sinner transformed, as long as he is still able to hear the saving call of the loving lord Jesus Christ. If however, you are beyond saving, because you have been given over to a reprobate mind, (like Judas, or Pharaoh), then reading this stuff will do you no good. But if there is the least glimmer of hope in you, and the still small voice of God can still be heard in the secret places of your conscience, then by all means read this, and "seek the Lord while He may be found, and call upon Him while He is near" (Isa. 55: 6), for there is no guarantee that you will still hear Him tomorrow. "Behold now is the accepted time. Today is the day of salvation" (2Cor. 6: 2). Do not delay from seeking the Lord in His day of Grace. Tomorrow you might not have the opportunity. God bless you as you read.

Tom,

I enjoyed discussing the Bible with you tonight. I always love to talk about it. You pointed out one thing to me that got me thinking. You said something to the effect that there are other associated reasons why a person might be gay, or have gender issues. Then you pointed out about people who are born sexually deformed, like morphodites or eunuchs. Mike also pointed out about the XYY chromosomes in Adam. These things are very interesting. Are Homosexuals created that way?

Of course the answers always lie with God. Christianity is God-centered and is therefore truth based. God cannot lie. He is "truth" (Ps. 31: 5; Jer. 10: 10; Jn. 14: 6). So as Christians we "think" the truth (Phil. 4:8), We rejoice in the "truth" (1Cor. 13: 6), and we "Speak" the truth (Zech. 8: 16; Ps. 12: 17; 1Tim.2: 7). Now there is no doubt that in the cases of people born sterile or with deformed genitalia, God created them like that. But, it has not been proven that homosexuality or transgender is a chromosomal or genetic (DNA) mutation or defect. I am more inclined to believe, like the Bible appears to teach, that gender identity issues are matters not of genetic defects, but of deviant thinking. God discusses these issue in Romans 1 as defective thoughts (notice: They think wrong about the truth (v.18). God has showed them what they need to "know" (v19). They have essential basic "understanding" (v.20). They have basic "knowledge" of God (v.21). It is said to be a matter of "vain imaginations" (this indicates thought), and "foolish darkened hearts" (this indicates defective thinking). Verse 24 then says this is a "lust" problem and a "heart" problem (which are defective thought patterns. "heart" = mind). And then, in verse 26

where the physical part of homosexuality is mentioned, God first says that they have "vile affections" (affections is a Bible word for "passionate desires". This also indicates defective thoughts.)

Next God spells out the exact nature of their physical sex acts (vs 26-27). This is not "thoughts" but actual "deeds" that they do. And finally God sums it all up with a final assessment of the sin of homosexuality (verse 28-32). This final assessment lists all kinds of mental sins, (25 to be exact). I did not count "murder" because that is technically a physical sin. After pondering what you said, and looking at this passage, I can only conclude that God does not view homosexuality as a genetic birth defect, but as a mental problem which is directly caused by thinking wrong thoughts about God (verses 20,21,23,25,28, 30). Did God have anything to do with it? Absolutely. He gave them the basic knowledge of God, which is the "light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world"(Jn. 1: 9 compare verses 20 & 21). Then it clearly says twice that "**God gave them up!** (Verses 24 and 26). Finally (and this is the ultimate result of all false thinking) "**God gave them over to a reprobate mind**" (v. 28).

These things appear to be cumulative and progressive. Just because a person is a homosexual does not mean that they are automatically at the last stage, which is being reprobate. Nobody knows how long God waits before turning a person over to a reprobate mind. That is up to God. I believe it all has to do with how much light a person has been given. To whom much has been given, much shall be required. So Paul is not teaching that just because a person is homosexual in his orientation or practices, that he is automatically reprobate. A teaching like that would obviously leave many people without hope, and would turn Christians in to hateful monsters who refuse to show love and compassion to sinners who need Christ just like other people.

But we can still reach some important conclusions from Pauls teachings here in Romans one.

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- 1).God created certain people like the morphodytes. They have physical abnormalities.
- 2). God gives everyone the basic "light" and "truth" to make all men inexcusable (V.20).
- 3). Homosexuality begins the same place as all other sins...wrong thinking.
- 4). There is no evidence that homosexuality is a genetic or "physical abnormality" like Morphodysm.
- 5). Homosexuality must be classed together with all other sexual sins, because it is not a physical defect but spiritual sin.
- 6). It is first a mental attitude problem (wrong thinking -see above), and then it is physically manifested as perverted physical acts (vs. 24, 26, 27).
- 7). God is instrumental in the downfall of homosexuals into this sin. He gives them up, and He gives them over to more thoughts that are wrong, until at last they might even become mental reprobates (v.28).

Conclusion: God is active in both cases...the case of those with physical defects ...and the case of those with thought problems so defective that they lead to reprobation and unnatural sinful acts. The fact that God causes these things, creating them according to His infinite purposes, in no way excuses or absolves men as responsible agents of their own thoughts and actions. It is clear...THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE (verse. 20).

I had never given much thought to these issues until you brought them up tonight. And now that I have studied it a little. I am certain that God knows exactly why he has made some people into morphodytes, some people into normal heterosexuals, and some people into homosexuals. We all think wrong. We all sin. And homosexual sins might constitute a more severe case of wrong thinking than most normal people have (perhaps that's why 25 associated mental sins are also listed). But in any case, God does what He wants. Man cannot change that. Nor can any man, straight or gay, change his own spiritual status. We are all saved by grace. And thousands, maybe even millions of homosexuals have been saved rather than becoming reprobates. Reprobates are beyond salvation once they've reached the point that they are called "Reprobate". And all that we can do is preach and teach the truth to those who are lost, in the hopes that God might save some, before He finally damns them to hell. This has pointed out to me, that I really need to pray for these lost souls, who are teetering so close to eternal destruction, all because they think evil thoughts continually (Gen.6:5). May God help us to reach them. Thanks for an interesting discussion. I love you in the Lord, and covet your friendship. God bless you. Earl

PS. Dear reader,

I have modified some of what I have said above, because a friend of mine, who has himself struggled with this destructive thought pattern and sin, has pointed out to me that there is hope for every kind and shade of sinner imaginable. I do fully agree with this, and I by no means want to make it seem like God is not interested in the salvation of all kinds of men. He is! And He does save even the chiefest of sinners like me and like the Apostle Paul. Maybe, you too struggle with this sin, or some other sexual sin. Sexual sins are among the most difficult to overcome and gain mastery over, because they are so pleasurable and so closely linked to our intimate human needs to feel close to someone. Adulterers, fornicators, pornographers, nymphomaniacs, pedophiles and masochists all struggle with sex sins, just like the homosexual. But they can all be forgiven, if they have not sinned away their day of grace, and been finally and irretrievably lost to the eternal desolation of reprobation. If God is speaking to your heart about how Christ can change your life, and forgive your sins, and give you a mastery over things that now master you, then you should embrace Him at once. Heed His cordial invitation to all men, to "taste and see that the Lord is good". He says "come unto me all you who labor and are heavily burdened, come unto me and I will give you rest".

My friend pointed out a wonderful passage that clearly applies, and that beautifully shows the transformation that has taken place in countless homosexuals, and in people with all sorts of sins. I will conclude with it, and I hope that God blesses it to your heart. The quote is taken from the English Standard Version.

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you.** 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 (1Cor. 6: 9-11).