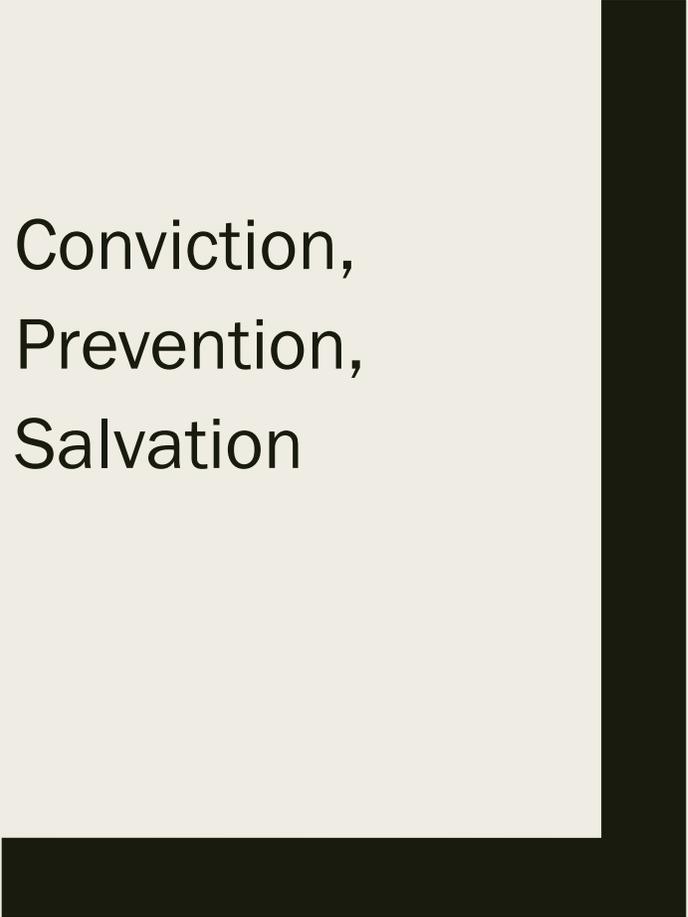




HOMOSEXUALITY

Conviction,
Prevention,
Salvation





IS IT WRONG?

Who Ultimately Decides Right and Wrong?

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: (Ephesians 4:17-21)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.” (John 13:20)

What Does God's Word Say?

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6:9-10)

- Rhetorical question that should *not* be needed (“*Do you not know?*”)
- Simply, flatly denies any hope of such people going to heaven.
- Uses two different – very specific – words to describe homosexuality, lacking any ambiguity, *contrary* to “*the gospel*” itself (1 Timothy 1:9-11).
- Warning to “*not be deceived*” is both unusual and implies possibility of deception, which emphasizes strength of warning even more so.



ARE YOU SURE IT IS
WRONG?

“But, I was *born* this way! It is *genetic*!”

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;
(Romans 1:24-28)

- Vividly affirms that homosexuality is “unnatural”, therefore not genetic.

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(Romans 1:24-28)

■ **Act** is described: unclean, dishonor, against nature, shameful, not fitting.

“But, I was *born* this way! It is *genetic!*”

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;
(Romans 1:24-28)

- **Act** is described product of: vile passions, burning lust, debased mind.

“What about science *proving* it is genetic?”

1. Who are you going to believe? Scientists or God?
2. Show me the science.
 - a) Miniscule sample sets are anecdotal, not statistically representative.
 - b) Analysis of corpses cannot distinguish between cause and effect.
 - c) Failure to use “triple-blind” method leaves room for assessment bias.
 - d) Increased “activity rate” – still substantially less than 100% – proves there is still a choice, even if more difficult.
3. Even if science undeniably proves *increased disposition*, that does not justify exercising inclinations (e.g., alcoholism, substance abuse, fiery temper, heterosexual tendency).

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (Romans 12:1)

“But, I *cannot* change! I cannot *control* this!”

*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you**. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Cor. 6:9-11)*

■ The Corinthians were able to change. If they can do it, so can you!

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

“Paul spoke from personal fears, customs ...”



GOD UNIVERSALLY
CONDEMNED
HOMOSEXUALITY



“Paul spoke from personal fears, customs ...”

- In directing roles of both genders, Paul looked to creation (**1 Tim. 2:12-13**).

The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Matthew 19:3-6)

- Order & relationship established at **creation** represents the Creator’s will (“good”, “very good”, “help meet comparable”, **Gen. 1:26-31; 2:15-25**).
- If, by Jesus, men should *not* undo what God **originally created** in marriage, are they free to modify its members, “male and female”?

God's Condemnation in *Patriarchal* Age

- Beyond NT & Creation, God's condemnation appears in Patriarchal age.

And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know." (Genesis 18:20-21)

- God visited Sodom & Gomorrah because of "*great outcry - very grave sin*".
- His judgment would be in accordance with His verification of accusation.
- What did God see? ... If He brings judgment, would that not imply that what He saw was indeed a "*very grave sin*" matching the "*great outcry*"?

“Sodom & Gomorrah destroyed for *inhospitality*”

*Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them [carnally].” So Lot ... said, “Please, my brethren, **do not do so wickedly!** See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof.” And they said, “Stand back!” Then they said, “This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them.” So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. (Genesis 19:4-9)*

- Not welcome committee, since daughters were offered in exchange.
- Lot recognized “*wickedness*” and was threatened with worse treatment.

“Sodom & Gomorrah destroyed for *inhospitality*”

*“For we will destroy this place, because the **outcry** against them has grown **great** before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it. ... Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.” ... The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. Then the LORD **rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah**, from the LORD out of the heavens. So **He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.** ... Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace. (Genesis 19:13-28)*

- Punishment was dispensed against widespread threats of homosexuality.
- Linking “*great outcry - very grave sin*” to homosexuality, not inhospitality.

“Sodom & Gomorrah destroyed for *inhospitality*”

as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. (Jude 7)

- Inhospitality is nowhere mentioned as basis of condemnation.
- Sexual immorality and seeking unauthorized relations was the condemnation.
- Coincidentally, links “God of OT” (**Genesis**) to “God of NT” (**Jude**).

God's Condemnation in *Mosaic* Age

- Beyond Creation, Patriarchal Age, (NT) Christian Age, God's condemnation appears in Mosaic Age (OT, Law of Moses).

... you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her. And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. ... Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. ... lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you. (Lev. 18:20-28)

- Homosexuality is explicitly declared as an *abomination*.
- See also: **Leviticus 20:13; Deuteronomy 22:5**

“Abhorred *only* in paganism, idolatry”

- First, where is the book, chapter & verse? Arbitrary limitation.

... you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her. And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. ... Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. ... lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you. (Lev. 18:20-28)

- Each stands alone (“not defile with any of these things”).
- Is adultery, bestiality, incest or other sins justified, if not associated with idolatry?

“What about David & Jonathan?”

... David arose from a place toward the south, fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times. And they kissed one another; and they wept together, but David more so. Then Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.’” So he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city. (1 Samuel 20:41-42)

- Must presume not homosexual, since blatantly condemned (**Lev. 18; 20**), and David’s later sexual immorality is severely punished (**2 Sam. 11-12**).
- Kissing was a customary greeting, even among unrelated men (**Gen. 29:13; Exo. 18:7; 1 Sam. 10:1; 2 Sam. 15:5; 19:39; 20:9; Pro. 27:6; Mat. 26:48-49; Luke 7:38-45; Acts 20:37; Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20 ...**).

“What about David & Jonathan?”

Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions. O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury; Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan was slain in your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women. How the mighty have fallen, And the weapons of war perished!” (2 Samuel 1:23-27)

- What kind of “*love*”? Presuming prematurely under pressure of prejudice?
- Poetic, exaggerated praise in death of David’s best friend, willing to risk his life and sacrifice the throne for his friend (**1 Sam. 20; 23:15-18**).
- David’s relationship with his wives was not the best (**2 Sam. 3; 11**).

“Can committed, monogamous love be wrong?”

- Would life-long, committed, monogamous love justified the other sins of **Leviticus 18 & 20**?
- Would such a love render the “*unnatural use*” of **Romans 1** to be “*natural*”?
- Do the general condemnation of **1 Cor. 6:9-10** allow for such exception?
- With exception to **Genesis 19**, which verse has *not* prohibited *generally*?
- Do you really love someone if you maintain a relationship with them that will keep them out of heaven and away from their eternal God & Father (**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**)?



HOW TO AVOID?

“How did this happen to *my* child?”

- “Reputable” sites’ advice on determining if this applies to you:
 - “Do you prefer the company of the opposite sex?”
 - “Do you enjoy activities associated the opposite sex (e.g., cooking, sports, fashionable clothing)”?
 - “Do you have a sense of awkwardness, not belonging?”
 - “Do you prefer to not look at yourself in the mirror or be in pictures?”
 - “Are you *afraid* of being transgender?”
- Equated to salvation (brings peace, comfort, belonging, sets right ...).
- “Have you noticed the clock reading **11:11**?” (Selection bias, filter)
- If self-diagnosed, internet encourages further exploration, curiosity, experimentation, and talking to a professional specializing in issue ...
- Avoid by helping more vulnerable to *deception, suggestion*. (**2 Cor. 2:6-11**).



HOW TO
OVERCOME?

“It is no different than any other sin!”

- **Yes**, like any sin, it is a transgression of God’s law and can send us to hell (**James 2:10-11; 1 Cor. 6:9-10 ; Lev. 18; 20**).
- **No**, homosexuality was showcased in **Romans 1:18-32** – among many other sins that will send people to hell – as one so obviously wrong, yet symptomatic of a *“debased mind”*, associated with *“vile passions”*, *“shameful”*, *“dishonorable”*, *“uncleanness”*. Capital offense (**Lev. 18; 20**).
- **Yes**, in that whether guilty or not guilty of this sin, we all have sinned and fallen short. We are unable to repay our debt and unable to boast (**Romans 3:23; Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 5:3**).
- **No**, in that some unregenerated sinners are *“not far from the kingdom of God”*, implying others might be (**Mark 12:34**), and this is not *“natural”*.

“It is no different than any other sin!”

- **Yes**, like any sin, it can be forgiven, forgotten, overcome – we too can be “*washed, sanctified, justified*” (**1 Cor. 6:9-11**). There is hope for everyone, and compassion should be extended to everyone (**2 Tim. 2:24; Jude 22-23; Eph. 4:15**).
- **No**, those given to it may have to work harder to overcome. Those supporting them may have to be more patient and understanding.
- **Yes**, like any other sin, it can *never be tolerated* in the Lord’s church, spiritual fellowship, or close friendship (**1 Cor. 5:6-13; Mat. 10:34-39; 2 Cor. 6:11-18; 1 John 2:1-5; 3:4-10**)!

Overcome it like any other *difficult* sin

- Count the cost; resolve in your own mind; be willing to sacrifice anything (**Luke 14:25-35; Dan. 1:8; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4-10**).
- Identify “triggers”, events, places, environments, sites that make you vulnerable – make sin almost unavoidable – and “*cut off*” those triggers from your life no matter how dear, embarrassing (**Mat. 5:28-30; Rom. 13:11-14**).
- Associate with godly Christians, not “*leavening yeast*” (**1 Cor. 15:33; 5:6-7; 2 Cor. 6:11-7:1**).
- Fill evil’s vacuum with good thoughts (Bible meditation, prayer, thankfulness, spiritual songs, spiritual counselors – **Mat. 12:43-45; Phi. 4:4-8; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 The. 5:16-18; Eph. 5:19-20; Gal. 6:1-2**).