

24 April, 2022

Human Sexuality, Gender, and the Gospel

Forestgate Presbyterian Church

Lesson 5: LGB-Homosexuality in the Bible

Goal for this class: to locate homosexual behavior in the text of the Bible and the context of sin and the gospel.

1. Resources:

- a. Podcast: *Thinking in Public* Episode: *The Strange New World of the Modern Self – A Conversation with Carl Trueman*, April 20, 2022

2. **Definitions (review)** - Let's be careful with the way we categorize (or judge!).

3. Locating Homosexual Behavior

Is it sin—something always outside of God's will—when persons of the same gender experience sexual intimacy together, or can homosexual practice be holy and pleasing to God in the right circumstances? - from K. DeYoung's book on Homosexuality

4. Five key texts on homosexuality

a. Gen 1-2

- One man becoming one flesh with one woman – God's divine design
- Procreative purpose of marriage: "fruitful and multiply"
- Marriage and complementarity of men and women runs through the whole metanarrative of Scripture (from Gen to Rev, the marriage supper of the Lamb).

b. Gen 19

- Sodom and Gomorrah – synonymous with extreme sinfulness and divine judgement
 - What was the sin of Sodom?
 - Several references to Sodom and Gomorrah throughout Scripture
 - "abomination" of Sodom in Eze 16:47-50 is a reference to sexual sin
 - Biblical and historical reputation for sexual (inc. homosexual) sin.

c. Lev 18:22, 20:13

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. (18:22)

If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. (20:13)

- Alongside incest, adultery, bestiality ... all were absolutely unholy (no qualifiers, no room for a consensual version)

d. Rom 1

- Man’s descent into ungodliness
 - Exchanging the glory of God for the foolishness of idols (vv. 21-23)
 - Exchanging the truth of God for a lie (vv. 24-25)
 - Exchanging natural relations with members of the opposite sex for relations with those of the same sex. Homosexual practice is a clear example of rebellion against God. (vv. 26-27)

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. (vv. 26-27)

- Unambiguous! Same-sex practice is a serious sin and a violation of the created order.
- Let the church not forget the serious indictment in v. 32, “...they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”

e. 1 Cor 6:9-10 and 1 Tim 1:8-11

- Comes down to the definition of a few Greek words: *malakoi* and *arsenokoitai*

Figure 5.1

	<i>malakoi</i> . . . <i>arsenokoitai</i> (1 Cor. 6:9)	<i>arsenokoitai</i> (1 Tim. 1:10)
English Standard Version	men who practice homosexuality	men who practice homosexuality
Holman Christian Standard Bible	anyone practicing homosexuality	homosexuals
King James Version	effeminate . . . abusers of themselves with mankind	them that defile themselves with mankind
New American Bible	boy prostitutes . . . practicing homosexuals	practicing homosexuals
New American Standard Bible	effeminate . . . homosexuals	homosexuals
New International Version (2011)	men who have sex with men	those practicing homosexuality
New King James Version	homosexuals . . . sodomites	sodomites
New Living Translation	male prostitutes . . . [those who] practice homosexuality	[those who] practice homosexuality
New Revised Standard Version	male prostitutes, sodomites	sodomites

¹ DeYoung, Kevin. DeYoung, Kevin. *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.