

What the Bible Teaches About Homosexuality

Original written in 1994 (updated 2002) – Pastor Kevin Lea

Although God has much to say on the subject of human sexuality, the Bible's teachings on this subject get little press. Many say that what the Word of God teaches about sex is out of date and narrow minded. Others contend that the Bible does *not* teach that homosexuality is sin. In fact, many homosexual churches have sprung up across the country, some even heretically claiming that Jesus was a homosexual!

The following passages are taken from the New King James translation of the Bible. These verses primarily cover the topic of homosexuality, but also address other sinful practices that are condemned by God. As you can see from these passages, God is not silent on this subject. If these warnings of Scripture are outdated, then why do we have millions (soon to be tens-of-millions) of AIDS deaths world wide?

The beginning of wisdom is to have a healthy fear of God, a fear that leads to repentance, worship, and obedience. It is my hope that the following Scriptures will remind people of what *God* considers right (righteous) and wrong (sinful). In some cases, I have added comments (preceded with "KL Note," and underlined some portions of the text for emphasis.

Summary of the Teaching

Scripture

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

Proverbs 9:10-12

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, and if you scoff, you will bear it alone."

God tells us to obey Him. He warns us not to go along with the crowd.

Leviticus 18:1-4

"Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'I am the LORD your God. According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the LORD your God.'"

God abhors the sinful practices of pagan cultures. Their sins actually pollute the land and will lead to their destruction.

Leviticus 20:22-23

"You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out. And you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore I abhor them."

God lists homosexual acts among the things that are an abomination to Him.

KL Note: If we fear God and desire to obey Him, then we will hate the things God hates and turn away from the following wicked practices.

Leviticus 18:21-30

"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. (KL Note: The false god, Molech, mentioned above was a god of the Ammonites. Archaeological findings indicate that Molech was a god of fertility. The Ammonites would worship Molech by acts of sexual immorality. The offspring that would be conceived during these "one night stands" would then be offered, at birth, to Molech as a human sacrifice by burning them to death. One could easily ask if this country's policy on abortion is any different.)

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“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. (KL Note: This is a clear reference to homosexual acts, and therefore clearly states that God considers homosexuality an abomination.)

“Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion. (KL Note: A reference to the abominable act of bestiality.)

“Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants. You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled), lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you. For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people. Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that you do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I am the LORD your God.”

God prescribes that the penalty for homosexual acts (and bestiality) is death.

Leviticus 20:13

“If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.”

Leviticus 20:15-16

“If a man mates with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the animal. If a woman approaches any animal and mates with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood is upon them.”

God promised the Israelites that they would not suffer from the same diseases as the pagan nations who practiced sexual immorality.

Deuteronomy 7:15

“And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you.”

KL Note: Today, the average life expectancy of a homosexual man is less than 50 years.¹

¹ Early reports in the 1980's suggested that male homosexuals had an average life expectancy of less than 50 years - more than 20 years less than the overall male population. With the push for “safe” sex and improved treatments for AIDS, one would expect that the life expectancy might have increased since then. However, a Canadian study in 1997 found that male homosexuals have a life expectancy of 20 years less than the general male population (based upon a prevalence of 3% of the male population). Using several different measures, including life expectancy determined from obituaries, two large random sexuality surveys (in the USA and Great Britain), and a survey of those never married in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, indicated an average age of death of less than 50 years old. A third study, published in 2002, found that the median age of death of 88 homosexually partnered men was 45 years, while for 118 unpartnered homosexual men it was 46 years. This latter study put the average life expectancy of male homosexuals nearly 30 years less than the general male population. Another study showed that, on average, ever-married men (always lived heterosexually) outlived the ever-homosexually-partnered (always lived the homosexual lifestyle) by 23 years in Denmark (74 yr. v. 51 yr.), and 25 years in Norway (77 yr. v. 52 yr.) Ever-married women outlived the ever-homosexually-partnered in Denmark by 22 years (78 yr. v. 56 yr.), and in Norway by almost 25 years (81 yr. v. 56 yr.). How does the average homosexual lifespan compare to the average life expectancy of smokers? On average, a lifetime smoker can expect the smoking lifestyle to reduce his life expectancy by only 10 years. However, smoking is vigorously condemned by the medical community and press, although it reduces life expectancy by less than half of that caused by a gay lifestyle. (Source: <http://www.godandscience.org/doctrine/homosexuality.html>)

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Men are to look like men and women like women. Cross dressing is an abomination to God.

Deuteronomy 22:5

“A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God.”

There are consequences of disobeying God.

Leviticus 26:14-16

“But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.”

Leviticus 26:25

“And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.”

Deuteronomy 28:15-48

“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me. The LORD will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess. The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish. And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed. The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth. Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away. The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart. And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you. You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes. Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away from before you, and shall not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have no one to rescue them. Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all day long; and there shall be no strength in your hand. A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually. “So you shall be driven mad because of the sight which your eyes see. The LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head. The LORD will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods-- wood and stone. And you shall become

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an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you. You shall carry much seed out to the field and gather but little in, for the locust shall consume it. You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off. You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity. Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land. The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail. Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you. And they shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever. Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.”

Deuteronomy 28:58-61

“If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, The LORD your God, then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues-- great and prolonged plagues-- and serious and prolonged sicknesses. Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed.”

KL Note: We can see evidence of these consequences in our country today. Many scoffers of God’s Word use passages like the above as proof that God is cruel and unjust. However, God knows that these diseases will come upon those that practice sexual immorality and He desires that we would choose life rather than death. Our loving God warns us of dangers so that we will not be overcome by these plagues. If we continue to act as if there is no God, will anyone be free of aids, syphilis, gonorrhea, and other STDs ten or twenty years from now? Is it possible that AIDS is not a new disease? Some of the symptoms described in the above passages are identical to those of late term syphilis; while others sound like modern day signs of AIDS. These passages of Scripture were directed specifically to the nation of Israel, and Israel suffered all of the judgments listed above because of disobedience during their history. Although Americans are not God’s chosen people nor is America a “Christian nation” as some presume, we, like the Egyptians and Canaanites, are just as susceptible to divine judgment for our abominable acts against the Creator of the universe.

God warns His people in order to spare them the consequences of these sins because He takes no pleasure in ruined lives. He is grieved when we refuse to heed His warnings.

Ezekiel 18:30-32

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the LORD GOD. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord GOD. “Therefore turn and live!”

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

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Sodom and Gomorrah were judged for their immorality.

KL Note: In Genesis 18:16-26, Moses records the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Recent archaeological diggings in the ancient city of Ebla have uncovered records indicating that the people of Ebla traded extensively with people from the city of Sodom. These discoveries confirm the biblical account that Sodom at one time existed. It is clear from the following portion of this Scripture that the whole city was given over to homosexuality, which brought God's divine judgment.

Genesis 19:1-5

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. 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."

KL Note: The phrase, "to know them carnally" in the original language and context of the verse clearly means that they intended to homosexually rape them. A similar account of a city given over to homosexuality can be found in the book of Judges, Chapter 19. This time in Israel's history is probably best summarized by the last verse in the book, which reads more and more like the newspapers of today, Judges 21:25, "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

Judges 19:20-23

"And the old man said, 'Peace be with you! However, let all your needs be my responsibility; only do not spend the night in the open square.' So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank. As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, 'Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!' But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage.

The New Testament also condemns the homosexual lifestyle.

Romans 1:18-31

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 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; being filled with all unrighteousness,

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sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful

Just like in the Old Testament, the following verses show that God does NOT want to destroy us. Rather He has sent His Son to save us, to take our judgment upon Himself so that we could be forgiven for our sins against Him.

John 3:16-21

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

The Bible is also clear that people are not born homosexual. Nowhere in the Bible does God condone homosexuality.

Romans 10:12-13

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same LORD over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

KL Note: If God “makes” a person to be a lesbian or homosexual, then they will live that lifestyle. If God also condemns that same lifestyle as an abomination to Him that will require His divine wrath, then it would not be possible for “whoever calls on the name of the LORD” to be saved. A “born that way” homosexual who desired to call on the name of the LORD could not be saved by the God who promises judgment for their lifestyle. There are many other verses that could be used to make this same point. No one is “born” a homosexual. It is a lifestyle that for various reasons a person is deceived into practicing. Once a person experiments with this very powerful sin, it is very difficult to shake the hook and become free, but many have (which would also not be possible if they were “born” that way).

1 Corinthians 6:9-11:

*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.*

God is angered when we call “good” what God calls evil and call “evil” what God says is good.

Isaiah 5:20-25

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, Who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away justice from the righteous man! Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom will ascend like dust; because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore the anger of the LORD is aroused against His people; he has stretched out His hand against them and stricken them, and the hills trembled. Their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still.

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All sin, including the sin of homosexuality, separates us from God. Our only hope of being spared from the penalty of sin (spiritual death) is by receiving God's gift of forgiveness, which only comes through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Tied with receiving God's gift of salvation is the desire to serve Jesus as our Lord, to have the same attitude towards sin that God has, to hate the things He hates and to desire to please Him. It is this attitude, coupled with the power of God's Holy Spirit that He gives to all true believers, which gives us the power to turn away (repent) from the sins we are committing against Him. He wants *all* to come to him. He does not want *anyone* to perish. It is my hope and prayer that those who have been deceived into living a life of rebellion against God will humbly consider God's word and seek His power to set them free from the path of destruction they are on. I urge them to get on their knees and confess to God that they have been living in sin and want to repent and receive His forgiveness which is afforded to all who call upon the name of the Lord.

Rom 10:8-13 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Some of you who read these Scriptures will reject their warnings. My prayer is that you will realize how empty and unfulfilling the so-called "pleasures of this world" are. The destroyer of your soul, Satan, promises pleasure and freedom but delivers death and destruction. May God have mercy on you and cause your blindness to be turned to faith in Him.

With the love of Jesus my Lord,

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