

Speaking Biblical Truth to the Gay Community

Rom. 1:22-32

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

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.

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Three groups in the average church today...

1. The Convinced.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for

- Teaching -
- Reproof -
- Correction -
- Training in righteousness -

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; **Isa. 53:6**

The Word of God is our authority on truth-

- Not the Supreme Court.
- Not the Media.
- Not the "upside-down" culture.
- Not personal experience.

2. The Contentious

Thus says the Lord: stand by the roads, and look and ask for the ancient paths, ...
Jer. 6:16

“Ancient Paths”? –

Just because it is modern, recent, or accepted in today’s culture is it
therefore truth?

... where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls...

But they said, “we will not walk in it.”

... they refused to love the truth and so be saved. **2 Thess. 2:10**

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. **Prov. 14:12**

Name calling from the world towards biblical Christ-followers

- Homophobic
- Oppressive
- Narrow-minded
- Haters
- Bigots
- Old-fashioned
- Bible thumpers
- Out-of-step
- Rigid fanatics
- Dangerous
- Unfair
- Extreme

3. The Confused.

Berea - ...they received the Word with all eagerness examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. **Acts 17:11**

To examine –

- to sift

- to make careful research

(Paul speaking to Felix and Drusilla)

And as he reasoned about –

righteousness

self control

the coming judgment (Acts 24:25)

Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the present.” **Acts 24:25**

What are the three spiritual issues concerning the topic of homosexuality?

1. Wisdom of God or the wisdom of the world?

Claiming to be wise, they became fools... **Rom. 1:22**

Arguments and lofty opinions raised against the knowledge of God. **2 Cor 10:5**

For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him...
(21)

Worthy are you our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power for you created all things and by your will they existed and were created. **Rev. 4:11**

But they became futile in their thinking and their foolish hearts were darkened.
... deceiving and being deceived. **2 Tim. 3:13**

Complexity of Reasons or Contributing factors

- Detached father/ mother
- Abusive father/ mother
- Strong feminine influences
- Ridicule by same gender peers
- Same gender experimentation
- Sensitive temperament; emotional turmoil
- Failure to emotionally bond with father/ mother
- Abuse
- Pornography
- Identity Confusion

“Although much research has examined the possible genetic, hormonal, developmental, social and cultural influences on sexual orientation, no findings have emerged that permit scientists to conclude that sexual orientation is determined by any particular factor or factors.” **(American Psychiatric Assoc., 2013)**

“And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.” **(Rom. 1:28)**

2. Worship God or worship the “gods” of this world?

“...exchanged the glory of the immortal God for the images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.” **(Rom. 1:23)**

J.H. Clinch Poem

“And still from Him we turn away,
And fill our hearts with worthless things;

The fires of greed melt the clay,
And forth the idol springs!
Ambition's flame, and passion's heart,
By wondrous alchemy earth's dross
To raise some gilded brute to fill Jehovah's seat!"

"They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator who is blessed forever." **(Rom. 1:25)**

"Homosexuality is a clear illustration of the idolatrous human response to turn away from God as Creator and His order and design as Creator." **Kevin DeYoung**

"Haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, foolish..." **(Rom. 1:30)**

"Religion has led only to violence, intellectual dishonesty, oppression and social division." **Christopher Hitchens**

"They not only do them but give approval to those who practice them." **(Rom. 1:32)**

According to "Upside Down" Thinking, the Bible is...

- Irrelevant to modern humanity
- Inconsistent with modern experience
- Insufficient to modern needs

3. Willingness to follow God or the Desires of the world?

"...who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth." **(Rom. 1:18)**

"The Scriptural texts in the Old and New Testaments condemning homosexual practice are neither inspired by God nor are they of enduring Christian value." **(William Kent-United Methodist Committee to Study Homosexuality)**

"I think it is important to state clearly that we do, in fact, reject the straight forward commands of Scripture, and appeal instead to another authority when we declare that same sex unions can be holy and good. We appeal explicitly to the weight of our own experience and the experience of thousands of others have witnessed to." **(Luke Timothy Johnson –Prof. of N.T. Emory Univ.)**

"Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves." **(Rom. 1:24)**

"Faithless...heartless...ruthless..." **(Rom. 1:31)**

James 1:27 –"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this... to keep oneself unstained from the world."

The call of Christ is a call to go upstream-

- To deny self.
- To take up your cross
- To deny ungodliness
- To flee sexual immorality
- To be holy as God is holy
- To turn from sin.