

A Scriptural View of Sin – Homosexuality

In 1959, the head of the church of England (Anglican Church) 'The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, spoke in the House of Lords in support of a change in British law to make homosexual acts between consenting adults (in private) no longer a criminal offense. The Archbishop said **the right to decide one's own moral code** and obey it, even to a man's own hurt, was 'a fundamental right given to him by God and to be strictly respected by society and a criminal code' " (Reuters, December 4, 1959).

We might hope... a leader of a Christian Denomination would instead point out the simple truth of scripture:

- **Lev 18:22** You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.
- **Lev 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. (*ie They have brought it on themselves.*)

The **gravest public sins** against life, religion, and the family were those which carried the maximum **penalty of death**, such as:

- premeditated murder (Exo_21:12; Num_35:1-34; Deu_19:1-21),
- kidnapping (Exo_21:16; Deu_24:7),
- adultery (Lev_20:10; Deu_22:22),
- **homosexuality** (Lev_20:13),
- blasphemy (Lev_24:13-16, Lev_24:23),
- idolatry (Deu_13:6-10), and
- persistent disobedience against authority (Deu_17:12; 21:18-21)

- **Gen_19:1-38** (*Sodom & Gomorrah destroyed*)
- **Jdg 19:22** (*Levite & his concubine*) As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city,* **perverted** men, surrounded the house & 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!"

*KJV = "sons of Belial" = (worthless, evil, ungodly) wicked men

- **Rom 1:26-27** 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.;
- **1Co 6:9** 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**

Ie ... Consequences ... Old Testament - Death penalty ... New T - exclusion from Kingdom!



Interestingly ... The Archbishop opts to play one Bible principle against the clear scriptures?!?

Q - Dr Fisher's statement gets to the BASIS of the whole problem. **Does each individual human being—completely APART from the Supreme God-have the authority to decide what is "right" and what is "wrong"?**

- **Jdg 21:25** In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
- **Pro 14:12** There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
- **Pro 16:25** There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

NO! ... The Archbishop's statement ... of the "**right**" to decide one's own moral code and obey it, even to a man's own hurt, was 'a fundamental **right** given to him by God and to be strictly respected by society and a criminal code' ... is goofy & incorrect!?!

- Those that **chose their own morality** under God's government in Israel were put to death
- Those today that **chose their own morality**... often break laws and are thrown in jail

Natural Law holds that (1) the natural law is given by God; (2) it is naturally authoritative over all human beings; and (3) it is naturally knowable by all human beings

There is NO SOCIETY where people are free to pick and choose "whatever rules" they wish!

- **Rom 1:18-20** 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...



A cause? Men & women are WEAK in their loyalty to their family, their religion and to their fellow man. Any concepts of right and wrong are hazy. Our society has been reared on a PERMISSIVE philosophy where there is no real sense of definite right or wrong in our families and community.

A cause? Society & the many influencers (school teachers, mothers, even instructors at church) they are often women who seek to suppress male traits at a time of development when this can harm some.

A cause? A clear genetic link would suggest that gay people are "born this way," as opposed to having made a lifestyle choice. Yet some fear that such a finding could be misused "cure" homosexuality, and most research teams have shied away from tackling the topic. No

“Gay gene” has been found ... Analysis of half a million people suggests genetics may have a limited contribution to sexual orientation (2019, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/massive-study-finds-no-single-genetic-cause-of-same-sex-sexual-behavior>)

A Treatment?

Prior to 1975, the consensus of the psychological community was homosexuality was an **illness**. Since homosexuality was considered pathological, "treatments" were discussed and devised. Including trying to reverse homosexuality using psychoanalytic therapy, prayer and spiritual interventions, electric shock, nausea-inducing drugs, hormone therapy, and surgery.



Furthermore, a vast amount of sexuality research suggests that homosexuality ***is not socially constructed*** but rather ***determined by biology***. In fact research suggests that hormonal influences during fetal development may impact certain parts of the brain and in turn impact sexual orientation. Additionally, researchers have identified several physical differences between homosexual and heterosexual men (i.e., finger length, birth order) all of which suggest that biology is at play in determining sexual orientation. These research findings extend into the animal kingdom as researchers have suggested that physiology largely impacts sexual behavior. Researchers have demonstrated that lesions in certain areas of the male rat brain can increase female-like sexual behavior (Agmo & Ellison, 2003). Thus treating something psychologically that is biologically determined makes about as much sense as trying to use talk therapy to change the color of an individual's eyes.

(<https://www.mentalhelp.net/sexuality/homosexuality>)

Jim's Conclusion ...

- The subject is too political & too emotionally charged for the facts to be clearly seen but there are some conclusions we can reach

Q – Are some “born” homosexual? Or is it a learned choice & behaviour?

Possibly both! Some may be “born that way” & some may have chosen or adopted a homosexual lifestyle (ie abused children etc may become gay)

Q- What does God & the church expect of homosexuals?

- If “treatment” is ineffective (to become heterosexual), we expect homosexuals to live a celibate life

Just as

- If treatment is ineffective, society expects **pedophiles** to live a celibate life
- If treatment is ineffective, society expects **people sexually attracted to animals** ... to live a celibate life

Some homosexuals (and others!) might claim ... that **this** is not fair! **God** is not fair- to give someone this burden! **Life** is not fair!

Our response can only be to agree to “parts” of this – and to point out other examples of lifelong trials or unfairness – people born blind, or crippled by a drunk driver... or who are not the smartest in their classroom ... or not able to be exposed to germs – or not have parents to raise them – or not get justice from a theft or crime against them

In God’s wisdom & His Plan, THIS world is not meant to be fair or just – we look for this fairness & joy in God’s Kingdom

- **Rev 21:4** And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Our commission in the church is to **teach** the Good News of the Kingdom of God

- **Mat 28:19-20** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.



All people will not embrace... or want to hear of God’s Laws (showing how to Love God & fellowman), or God’s Plan, God’s Holy days, etc.

We do **NOT** have a message on “how to make **this Age** a perfect paradise & utopia”

We do have ...

- **Joh 8:32** And you shall know the **truth**, and the truth shall make you free."

(I think it means ... free from deception, and ... free from chasing after falsehoods!)
(...and ... free from slavery to sin...)



What about ... “special punishment” for homosexuals ...

- Bullying them in school?
- Dragging them (to death) behind a truck in the old south?
- Muslims setting them on fire and throwing them off a roof?

Well ... in today’s society these actions are illegal (and SHOULD BE!) – homosexuality is legal in modern society ... and so is looking at women to lust after them, or hating your brother

- **Rom_3:23** for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God
- Do you drag Sunday keepers behind a pickup truck? Or people using God’s name as a swear word?
- It is not our job to enforce God’s law upon society – we teach about it as the ideal
- **Mat_5:43-44** "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you

Our Christian duty is ... to show love to our neighbour... If he is your next door neighbour, our duty is to be the **BEST** neighbour he’s ever had! If he’s a co-worker ... be a **great** co-worker to him/her.

What about ... love the sinner & NOT the sin? (... Is this even scriptural?)

- Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world ...
- Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own **love** toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.

But Jesus expects repentance & obedience – Change!

- Luk 14:27 And whoever does not **bear his cross and come after Me** cannot be My disciple.
- Luk_13:27 But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, **all** you workers of **iniquity**.' (iniquity = lawlessness)

What about ... fairness ... (again) ... Humans are sexual beings (who get lonely) ... Would God “make someone” this way?

- **Jas 1:12** NLV God blesses those who **patiently endure** testing & temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

What about ...

Deception?

- It is crummy for youth in this world, with all the focus & deception about gayness – Schools are pushing an agenda to make alternatives “normal” ... & deceiving some

Not-Deceived? Many today choose to not *hear* or *yield to* “common sense”

- **2Pe 3:4-5** And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they **willingly are ignorant** of ...

What about ... Avoiding “this world” ... Hating Sin ... separating “the Holy” from profane

- Mat 6:14-15 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if **you do not forgive men their trespasses**, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Clearly we are all sinners – all need forgiveness – So... we have no right to feel superior because we never committed **THAT** sin.

What about ... Same Sex Marriage?

- Bible-believers understand the term **same sex union** ... to enable fair legal treatment of all in society ... but ... We object to the term *marriage* for same sex unions because ... marriage it is a scriptural term for the institution created by God - NOT to be counterfeited or hijacked



What about ... Tolerance vs Acceptance?

- As a small church in a big society ... we *appreciate* tolerance. Like Paul got in the pagan Roman world ...
- **Act 28:30-31** Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, **no one forbidding him**.

But ... with so many movements today ... Gay rights, Trans rights, etc ... they don't want to be *merely* “tolerated” (agree to disagree) they want “acceptance”. To be considered as an **equally good** and **acceptable** lifestyle... *In-your-face* in parades, taught in schools, etc. The science shows heterosexual lifestyles **are the BEST** environment for raising children ... **the Ideal** ... So terms like **Heteronormative** or **homophobia** are created ... Ugh!