

The Bible and Homosexuality

1. There are seven references to homosexual acts in the Bible and all seven declare the act of homosexuality to be a serious sin carrying special consequences.

- 2 refer to rape (Gen 19:5, Jud 19:22)
- 1 refers to prostitution and pederasty (1Co 6:9-10)
- 4 are nonspecific (Levi 18:21-22, Lev 20:13, Rom 1:26-27, 1Tim 1:8-10)

2. Old Testament

2.1 The first mention in the Bible is in Gen 19:1-13. The wicked men of Sodom attempted a homosexual rape of two messengers from God who had come to visit Lot. As a result of this and other widespread wickedness, God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in a storm of fire and brimstone.

Gen 19:1 The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

Gen 19:2 "My lords," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning." "No," they answered, "we will spend the night in the square."

Gen 19:3 But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate.

Gen 19:4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom -- both young and old -- surrounded the house.

Gen 19:5 They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."

Gen 19:6 Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him

Gen 19:7 and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing.

Gen 19:8 Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof."

Gen 19:9 "Get out of our way," they replied. And they said, "This fellow came here as an alien, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them." They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door.

Gen 19:10 But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door.

Gen 19:11 Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door.

Gen 19:12 The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here -- sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here,

Gen 19:13 because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it."

2.2 The next two references are found in the book of Leviticus.

Lev 18:22 "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.

Lev 20:13 "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

2.2.1 The Old Testament prescribed the death penalty for such crimes as murder, kidnapping, witchcraft and sorcery, sex with an animal, incest, adultery, homosexual acts, adultery and perjury in a capital case.

2.3 The last Old Testament reference to homosexuality is found in the book of Judges.

Jdg 19:22 While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they shouted to the old man who owned the house, "Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him."

3. New Testament

3.1 Jesus never mentioned homosexuality, but He did condemn all forms of sexual immorality:

3.2 What comes out of you is what defiles you. For from within, out of your hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile you.

Mar 7:20 He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.'

Mar 7:21 For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,

Mar 7:22 greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.

Mar 7:23 All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"

3.3 The apostle Paul, in one of his letters to the Corinthians addressed the subject: "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1Co 6:9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders

1Co 6:10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1Co 6:11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

3.3.1 The phrase "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders" requires comment. Only perfect people changed by an act of God will enter the heavenly Kingdom of God and that even includes each and every one of us. God could never live with imperfection of any sort.

3.3.2 The word translated "male prostitute" in verse nine is from the Greek word **Malakos** which literally means "soft to the touch." However, it was used metaphorically to refer to a catamite (a boy kept for sexual relations with a man) or to a male prostitute in general. The word translated a "homosexual offender" is the Greek word **Asenokoites** and means a sodomite, a person who engages in any kind of unnatural sex, but especially homosexual intercourse.

3.4 There are two other New Testament references to homosexual acts. Rom 1:25-27 and 1Ti 1:8-10.

Rom 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator -- who is forever praised. Amen.

Rom 1:26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.

Rom 1:27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Rom 1:28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

1Ti 1:8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.

1Ti 1:9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers (*patricide*) and murderers of mothers (*matricide*), for manslayers (**Androphonos**-*those committing homicide*),

1Ti 1:10 For whoremongers (*male prostitutes*), for them that defile themselves with mankind (*homosexuals*), for menstealers (*kidnappers or slave traders*), for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

3.5 A reasonable and objective interpretation of Bible teachings concerning homosexual acts of all kinds speak to such as serious sins and attacks against marriage between the right man and right woman.

4. Sexual orientation is not a sin unless acted upon:

4.1 There is a tendency by some to confuse homosexual tendencies and feelings with acts of homosexual intercourse because the English word "homosexuality" is often used to describe both.

4.2 However, regardless of how we interpret the Bible's teachings about homosexual acts, it is important to note that the Bible does not condemn people for having homosexual tendencies. It is certain actions that are prohibited by Bible teachings, not tendencies or feelings.

4.3 A boy or girl who discovers homosexual feelings should realize that, like other interests and feelings, it may be only a passing phase that will fade away in time. Meanwhile, he or she should avoid becoming obsessed with the feelings or indulging in any kind of sexual activity.

5. It is important for believer's to remember. Salvation comes by faith alone in Christ alone; so can a homosexual be saved: of course, but they will be changed before entering the heavenly kingdom and yes their mansion might even be next door to your beautiful palace where ecstatic happiness abounds.