

## The Christian and Homosexuality

This month 2 gay men were sentenced to 14 years in prison in Malawi for getting engaged to each other. Kenya is considering the death penalty for homosexuality. The world – the western world in particular – is putting pressure on these countries citing human rights abuse. South Africa is one of the few African countries where homosexuality is legal. We are bombarded with the media covering gay marches, gay parades and movies are introducing gay themes. This year Archie comics will be introducing a gay character stating that they need to keep their comics contemporary. How do we, as Christians, respond to homosexuality?

Romans 1: 18 – 32 (26 – 27)

Vs. 26 – 27 from The Message: “Worse followed. Refusing to know God, they soon didn’t know how to be human either—women didn’t know how to be women, men didn’t know how to be men. Sexually confused, they abused and defiled one another, women with women, men with men—all lust, no love. And then they paid for it, oh, how they paid for it—emptied of God and love, godless and loveless wretches.”

### 1) God’s intention for men and women

- God created man and woman for each other
  - Genesis 2: 20 – 25 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs" and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called `woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.
  - God created woman for man. When it states that he will be united with his wife it could also read “he was united with his woman” as the Hebrew word translated wife is the same as that translated woman.
  - It is clearly God’s intention from creation that he intended for a man to have relations with a woman and not a man with a man or a woman with a woman.
  - It is obvious in the way that God has made us.
    - He created us very differently because his intention was not merely for sexually pleasure but for procreation
    - Genesis 1: 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.
- God did not make a man to have sexual relations with a man nor a woman with a woman
  - Besides the moral issue how would procreation take place if God had made us as we are and intended homosexuality?
  - It would be unrealistic to obey the command of multiplying for a man without a woman or a woman without a man
- The very nature of the way created us reveals His intention that a man and woman should have sexual relations – within marriage

### 2) The sinfulness of homosexuality

- Leviticus 18: 22 Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.
- Leviticus 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.
  - The issue of homosexuality is not new. It has been a problem since the time sin entered the world.
  - Here we see that homosexuality is detestable to God and He has given a clear command not to practice it
  - Thus practicing homosexuality is also an act of rebellion against God

- It is an act of rebellion against His natural order – the way He created us
  - It is an act of rebellion against a clear command
- Romans 1: 26 – 27 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 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.
  - Paul clearly states that sexual relations between a man and a woman is the natural relation – the way that God intended men and women to have sexual relations
  - These natural relations were abandoned for unnatural ones – men with men and women with women
  - He calls it “indecent acts”, “perversion”, “shameful lusts”
- 1 Corinthians 6: 9 – 10 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
  - Here Paul gives a list of what he refers to as “wicked” who will not inherit the kingdom of God.
  - Amongst these are homosexual offenders
  - He emphasizes by repetition that they will not inherit the kingdom of God and states that we should not be deceived in thinking that they will.
  - I must state here that homosexuality is amongst others on the list and we must never view it as the worst of all sins or the unforgivable sin. All sin is equally bad in God’s sight whether homosexuality or slander or lust
- There are consequences for homosexuality
  - Each scripture on homosexuality cited contains consequences
    - They must be put to death (this was under Mosaic Law)
    - They received due penalty for their perversion
    - They will not inherit the kingdom of God
  - There are natural consequences
    - HIV/AIDS
    - Unnatural families – spread of homosexuality through adoption
    - Unstable societies
    - Death
    - Orphans

### 3) The Christian’s response to homosexuality and homosexuals

- Don’t judge the homosexual person
  - Matthew 7: 1 – 2 Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
  - We are normally quick to judge homosexuality as if it is the worst of all sins. We will overlook a man lusting after a woman, or someone who gets drunk, or someone who cheats and steals but we are slow to overlook the homosexual offender.
  - We need to look at ourselves and ask whether we are completely without sin before judging because we will be judged by the same measure that we are judged with
- Be clear that we do not condone homosexual practise as it is sinful
  - Even though we don’t judge neither do we condone immoral practises
  - 1 Corinthians 5: 9 – 11 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-- not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.
  - For those outside the church we call them to repentance and to put their faith in Christ. Once they have done that they need to leave their homosexual lifestyle (it’s part of repentance)

- Lovingly accept the person
  - 1 Timothy 1: 15 – 16 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.
  - Recognise the fact that we are no better than the homosexual and would be just as lost were it not for God's grace and His acceptance of us
  - In doing so we will be able to accept the homosexual as a person even though we don't condone homosexual practise
  - Remember that the homosexual person is often looking for love and acceptance – don't show him/her rejection
- Take time to minister God's grace to them
  - Let them know that God loves them and has died for them
  - Homosexuality IS forgivable
  - Find out about their lives – try understand why they are homosexuals. Maybe a man had a domineering mother and he grew an aversion to woman. Maybe a woman had an abusive father and she is scared of men.
  - Understand that their homosexual tendency is a bondage that needs to be broken by the power of God as much as an alcoholic or a drug addict or someone with a lust problem
  - Be aware that there are Christians who still have homosexual orientations but recognise that homosexual practise is wrong so don't practise homosexuality.
  - There is no such thing as a Christian who practises homosexuality though as it is a sinful practise