

Lecture #15: Homosexuality (Part 1) (Detailed Notes)

"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" (1 Cor 6:9-11)

Purpose of this Lecture: To present the Biblical view of Homosexuality and the great promise that God holds out to those in Bondage to this sin

- o The Bible is very clear about this sin
- o God condemns this sin just as He does all sin
- o This sin is not beyond cleansing through Christ
- o The second lesson will address the tactics employed by gays and what we can do to counter
- o Warning: by exposing, the unthinkable becomes thinkable - we must be careful!

Questions: Do any of you know a homosexual?

- o Do any of you work with a homosexual?
- o Are any of you related to a homosexual?
- o One of two moral issues splitting this country - with major effects on a number of other areas (hiring; benefits; education; counseling; public displays of affection; even worse perversions)

1. Introduction: Although many do not want to believe it, Homosexuality is a sin, and bondage to it can be removed completely "And that is what some of you were"

- a. Two Greek words are rendered "homosexual offenders" in the NIV
 - o "*malakoi*" meaning literally "soft, gentle" and in moral contexts "yielding, or remiss"; those who allow themselves to be homosexually misused (the passive role); also "soft; effeminate person" (catamites, men and boys who allow themselves to be misused)
 - o "*arsenokoitai*" is a masculine gender and a compound from words for "male" and "bed"; those are the active role in intercourse with men; pederasts, sodomites (**1 Tim 1:9-10**)
 - o This understanding is evidenced from other Greek literature from as early as 245 B.C. (ref a)
- b. Listed amongst many other offenses that place a person outside the kingdom of God
- c. As with the other sins, repentance and faith in Christ removes the stain of this sin and the desire for it (repentance turns away from a sin completely)
- d. Claims are made that it is impossible to change a true "homosexual"; however, these:
 - o Deny the sovereignty and wisdom of God in the designing of men and women (perfect order)
 - o Deny the truth and infallibility of God's word (God is all knowing)
 - o Makes God out to be irrational, condemning that which cannot change
 - o Deny any possibility of God's grace and mercy bringing a new nature to a person
- e. This verse proves that homosexuality is a sin that can be atoned for, just as any other sin, with the person reborn into a godly life no longer in bondage to the prior sin
- f. Is this sin any worse than any other sin? (**James 2:10**)
- g. Is this verse an isolated treatment of homosexuality?
 - o Many verses in the O.T. (See below), however:
 - o Keep in mind that the context is Israel - the covenant nation of God
 - o The nation, and all of it's people were to be holy, as God was holy (**Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7,26**)
 - o The punishment for this sin was death, as was about 28 other offenses
 - o Several verses in the N.T. (See below), however:
 - o Never is the death penalty called for (power of the sword rests with the state, not the church (God did miraculously intervene in taking lives at times: **1 Cor 11; Acts**))
 - o The sexually immoral, unrepentant were removed from the fellowship, not stoned

- o This was an act of mercy to show the seriousness of the offense, and how tenuous the condition the person was in

2. There are many Biblical accounts and references showing God's judgment and condemnation towards homosexuality!

- a. The account of Sodom and Gomorrah (**Genesis 18:20; 19:1-13; 13:13**)
 - o Men of Sodom were wicked and sinned greatly against the LORD (**13:13**)
 - o Outcry was so great against Sodom and Gomorrah that:
 - o The LORD Himself came down to see for Himself (**18:20,21**)
 - o God sent angels to destroy completely the two cities (**19:13**)
 - o All men from every part of Sodom participated in the attempt to rape the visitors
 - o Homosexual sin was their objective (**19:5**)
 - o They refused sexual intercourse with Lot's daughters, showing no desire at all for women (**19:7-9**)
 - o Other references to Sodom and Gomorrah show that they were an example of wickedness with which other sin is compared
 - o **Deut 29:23** (God overthrows the cities in fierce anger; example as a warning to Israel)
 - o **Deut 32:32** (Refers to vines/grapes of Sodom and Gomorrah being filled with poison/bitterness, the venom of serpents, deadly poison of cobras)
 - o **Isa 1:9-31** (Israel likened to Sodom and Gomorrah, except God left survivors)
 - o **Isa 3:9,12** (Sin paraded like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, they did not hide it)
 - o **Jer 23:14** (Prophets of Jerusalem likened to Sodom, adultery, live a lie, strengthen the hand of evildoers, no one turns from his wickedness)
 - o **Ezek 16:49-50** (Arrogant, overfed, unconcerned, did not help the poor and needy, haughty, did detestable things)(**16:26**; depraved)
 - o **2 Peter 2:6,7,10-12** (Ungodly, filthy lives, lawless men/deeds, bold, arrogant, slandering of celestial beings, blasphemes in matters they do not understand, brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed)
 - o **Jude 7-16** (Various descriptions that apply; will suffer the punishment of eternal fire)
 - o **1 Tim 1:9-10** (perverts mentioned as contrary to sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God)
 - o Sodom was utterly destroyed because it was full of homosexuals, it's sin was so grievous (**Gen 18:20**) that men day after day practiced their sexual debauchery (**2 Peter 2:6-8**)
- b. **Leviticus 18:22,24-25**
 - o Very explicit description of homosexuality - "Do not lie with a man as with a woman"
 - o This is detestable to God
 - o This will result in the defilement of nations/the land
 - o Consequence is that the land will be punished (old covenant)
 - o Action to be taken is that the person must be cut off from his people
 - o The practice must discontinue so that the example is not there for others to see
 - o There are consequences for the nation and land in allowing homosexuality to continue
 - o Judgment is a warning to other nations that they are accountable for their perversions and will be judged (even though they did not have the law as revealed by God to Israel)
 - o See also **2 Peter 2:8** "lawless"
- c. **Leviticus 20:13**
 - o Very explicit description of homosexuality: "If a man lies with another man as with a woman"
 - o Both are detestable to God
 - o Both must be put to death
 - o Their blood is on their own heads
 - o This shows that they are accountable for their own actions, they were not forced to do something that they did not want to do or had no control over
 - o Received just punishment for own sin (paid the ultimate price for their depravity - their lives)
- d. **Judges 19:1-24**
 - o Description of wicked men in Gibeah & their homosexual desires (disgraceful, vile)(vs **22-24**)

e. Romans 1:21-32

- o These verses describe the process of degradation and severe moral decline that occurs when God is rejected, until one becomes reprobate (to damn!)
- o Describes those that have turned from God to idolatry, therefore, God gave them over (allowed them to plunge) to sinful desires/sexual impurity
 - o God did not force them
 - o It was their choice, God did not prevent them
 - o God's common grace was withdrawn
 - o The result was the degrading of their bodies with one another
 - o Any sin fully manifest will be horrible to behold
- o God gave them over to shameful lusts and explicitly describes what he is talking about so there is no misunderstanding!
 - o Men: "unnatural" relations (homosexuality) with other men and turned away from "natural" relations with women
 - o Indecent acts with other men
 - o Perversion
 - o Severe penalty received in themselves because of this (disease; stoning to death; ostracizing from the community; dissipation of self; conflict; and ultimately will give an account before a holy God (God's wrath))
 - o Women: In context did the same thing that the men did (lesbianism), that is, turning to other women instead of men for sexual purposes
- o God gave them over to depraved minds "filled" with the very things that a community under God's common grace loathes:

o Wickedness	o Deceit	o Boastfulness
o Evil	o Malice	o Invention of evil ways
o Greed	o Gossips	o Disobedience
o Depravity	o Slander	o Senselessness
o Envy	o God-haters	o Faithlessness
o Murder	o Insolent	o Heartless
o Strife	o Arrogant	o Approving others doing the same

(see 1 Peter 4:3-5)

Note: Do any of these traits appear to characterize the current homosexual leadership, or activists in the movement?

Note: Does this not also describe those that have become so consumed in their own sin that they viciously attack all who challenge them (grossest idolatry)

- o God's righteous decree is that those who practice the above deserve death! (**Rom 1:32**)

3. Through Christ, homosexuals have the only true hope of being released from the bondage they are in during this life and eternal judgment!

a. **1 Cor 6:9-11** Gives hope for us all - including Gays

- o Sexually immoral, idolatrous, adulterous, male prostitutes, homosexual offenders, (other translations: sexual perverts, partakers in homosexuality, effeminate) will not inherit the kingdom of God (all such sin is idolatry - **Col 3:5-6**)
- o "*malakoi*" and "*arsenokaitai*" are rendered "homosexual offenders" in this listing (the passive and active roles, respectively, that homosexuals perform)
- o Very explicit description, but these sins (just as all others) can be washed by Christ's blood
- o This is what some "have" been, but not anymore!
- o Verse **11**: They have been washed, sanctified, justified by the Spirit of God
 - o Shows that homosexuals can be cleansed and made new through Jesus Christ and the washing of the Spirit
 - o Homosexuality isn't a permanent condition, it is not a genetic condition, it is a choice!
 - o It is not a freak condition of nature that one has no control over
 - o Through Christ they can be given a new nature (**2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15**)

- o **Col 3:12-17** A picture of the redeemed nature, replaces the wicked nature!
 - o **2 Cor 10:5** We are all to take captive every thought to obedience unto Christ
 - o **1 Cor 6:18-20** We are to honor God with our body in Christ honoring ways, homosexuals have that same command - and hope!
- b. Bottom lines:
- o God's pattern for mankind was established at creation (**Gen 1:27; 5:2**)
 - o Male and female, designed for sexual relations in male-female union
 - o The expression of this is manifest in marriage (one man to one woman for life)
 - o Homosexuality is not consistent with God's divine order of creation but is a wicked expression of sin (not natural, but a perversion)
 - o In the O.T. it was a sin that even defiled the land (**Lev 18:22,24-25ff**)
 - o Being a non-practicing homosexual is not acceptable either
 - o Our thought life is as important to God as our actions
 - o It denies the complete transforming power of Christ (new nature)
 - o It implies that it is a "condition" that is not treatable ("That's the way I am")
 - o Homosexuality is:
 - o A choice
 - o Not an innate, genetically determined condition
 - o Not an irreversible psychological condition
 - o Not normal
 - o Caution: don't underestimate the difficulty gays have in coming out of this life-style!