

Lecture #16: Homosexuality (Part 2) (Detailed Notes)

*"When the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"
(Psalm 11:3)*

Purpose of this Lecture: Address the more contemporary issues associated with Homosexuality and what a we can do, if anything, specifically:

- o Review the Biblical approach to Homosexuality
- o Overview the consequences of the Homosexuality Life-style
- o Address the False Assumptions made to Justify it
- o Discuss the Tactics Commonly used by this Community and what We can do

1. Quick Review: the Bible is clear: Homosexuality is a sin, but since it is a sin, there is hope!

- a. One of several major ethical questions that is dividing our society. Has implications and impacts upon us in virtually every aspect of our lives
 - o Our personal lives (family; friends, neighbors)
 - o Our churches (how to treat the individual, is this sin worse than others, leadership positions)
 - o Our civil spheres (work conditions, laws, employees, state and national leadership, schools)
- b. The Bible does not condone homosexuality in any form - on the contrary - it condemns it in some of the strongest language found (see Session #15 and Handout: "Homosexuality - The Biblical View")
 - o It is listed along with other capital crimes of: murder; rape and kidnapping (O.T.)
 - o We are to hate that which is abominable to God (**Psalm 119:128**) just as with all sin
 - o But, is this sin any worse than any other sin?
 - o **James 2:10** "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it"
 - o All sin deserves death before a holy God
 - o Some sin carries greater consequences (disease; leads to other sin; death; depression; violence; emotional and physical pain...)
 - o Adultery is depicted in the Bible as symbolic of man's disobedience and turning from (rejecting) God; homosexuality is this and also perverting the nature of man (who is created in God's image)
 - o But we are to be compassionate with those who are repentant, or are involuntary victims
- c. God's pattern for us was established at the creation
 - o God created the human race male and female (**Gen 1:27; 5:2**)
 - o Not an arbitrary accident of evolution
 - o Not a cultural convention or choice
 - o God's image was manifest by creating both sexes
 - o God designed us for sexual relations in the form of male-female union
 - o "This creation of sexual differentiation by God from the beginning established heterosexuality as the normative direction for the sexual impulse and act" (ref a)
 - o These relations are to be pursued within marriage only (**Gen 2:24**); and are for a "man" and "woman" to become one flesh (**Mark 10:6-8; 1 Cor 6:16; Eph 5:31**)
 - o The NT maintains that the heterosexual drive is the natural God-given orientation of males and females (**1 Cor 7:2-5**); in that fashion within marriage is the bed undefiled (**Heb 13:4**)
 - o Any perversion of this pattern is sin before the Lord
 - o Sexual immorality before or after marriage (adultery) is sinful
 - o Sexual lusts any time is sinful (even within marriage)
 - o Homosexual (and lesbian) lusts and acts are sinful
 - o Pedophilia, rape, incest, etc. are perversions of the pattern God has graciously given mankind and will reap judgment
- d. Homosexuality specifically is a choice (see below), and is:
 - o Not consistent with God's divine order of creation, but comes about through man's fall into sin
 - o Not natural, but is a perversion of man's nature

- o Is a sin that defiled the land in the OT (**Lev 18:22,24-25 ff**), thus it is not a victimless crime
- o So abhorred by God that in the OT He commanded capital punishment as the just payment for it (**Lev 20:13**) (Murder and rape could have mitigating circumstances (**Deut 19:4-13; 22:23-29**), but this sin has none!)
- o Brought to a halt and replaced with God's pattern for men and women through the redemptive act of Christ (calling homosexuality a sin offers hope because God forgives and transforms (**2 Cor 5:17; 1 Cor 6:9-11**))
- e. It is not acceptable to be a "non-practicing" homosexual
 - o Several liberal Christian denominations have allowed the ordination of "non-practicing" homosexuals, in effect accepting that gays are that way by nature but must abstain from it
 - o It implies that it is a condition such as a genetic defect or illness that we are not responsible for, but that we accommodate or suppress
 - o Our thought life is as important as our acts of sin (**Matt 5:27-28; 15:19**)
 - o It denies the transforming power of God that changes our sinful nature and removes even ungodly desires (**1 Thess 5:23; Gal 5:24; 2 Cor 7:1; Rom 12:2**)
- f. Acceptance of homosexuality is a sign of God's judgment upon us (**Isa 5:20; Rom 1:18-27; Gen 19**)

2. Three General Propositions of the Homosexual Movement are pushed very hard - Each of Which are False(see Handout: "Homosexuality - Three Key Secular Lies and the Actual Truth"):

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|---------------------------|--|
| a. Biological argument | - homosexuality is an innate, genetically determined condition |
| b. Psychological argument | - homosexuality is irreversible |
| c. Sociological argument | - homosexuality is normal |

3. Tactics of the Homosexual Movement are common ones used by many immoral campaigns (see Handout: "Homosexuality: Tactics and Counter-Tactics")

4. What can we do? See Handout: Homosexuality: Selected Effects and Responses to Tactics Used by the Homosexual Community

5. Additional thoughts:

- a. Nowhere does scripture condone homosexuality or provide any acceptance of it
- b. This sin is explicitly described so there is no misunderstanding what sin is meant (both O.T. & N.T.)
- c. The practice is the result of a depraved nature and not genetics
- d. The very nature of things tells us that it is a perversion of how God has intended men and women to relate to each other. It abuses the natural physical use of what God has designed into us
- e. There is no scientific evidence to support the statements that homosexuality is a genetic condition, or that a person does not have a choice - it is a choice that is made by the individual, and as such that person is accountable before God for it
- f. 2 Peter 2:8 shows that Sodom's inhabitants violated God's law/commands, even though they were not the elect theocratic people of God - they were still responsible (Rom 2:14,15; 1:32)
- g. Canaanites were utterly destroyed because of these "abominations" such as homosexuality and they were not under the Mosaic law (Lev 18:24-30)
- h. DOMA: Defense of Marriage Act (ref d)
 - o California initiative to be on the ballot in March 7, 2000
 - o Adds the following to the State Constitution: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California" to amend 1872 law (Family Code, Section 308) which reads: "A marriage contracted outside this state that would be valid by the laws of the jurisdiction in which the marriage was contracted is valid in this state"
 - o Over 679,000 signatures provided to the Secretary of State, 433,000 needed to qualify (8 of 58 counties had not submitted all of their signatures)
 - o November 3 1998 elections
 - o Hawaii passed a constitutional amendment 69% to 29% to keep marriage "only between opposite sex couples"
 - o Alaska passed a similar Amendment (#2) by 68% to 32%
 - o California: Senator Pete Knight's (R-Palmdale) "California Defense of Marriage Act (SB 911) was defeated by the State legislature, thus requiring a State Initiative

- o 18 States have yet to affirm traditional marriage ("As California goes, so goes the nation")
- o Vermont Supreme Court ruled (1999) that the State must enact marital benefits legislation for homosexual partners. Polls indicate (Jan 00?) 52% disagree with the court, 38% agree; also 49% favor overturning the ruling with a constitutional amendment with 44% opposing this (Family Research Council (3 Feb 2000)
- i. We should be very careful to not stereotype gays; they may or may not have mannerisms that separate them (differentiate) from all others
- j. Homosexuality defined: Any person, male or female (including lesbians) that engages in sexual relations with members of the same sex or who desires to do so. Homosexuality is an affectional attraction to, or active sexual relation with, a person of the same sex
- k. Earlier years homosexuals were depicted on TV as something to make fun of - this allowed the subject to be exposed more to a mass audience; now has turned to acceptance as an alternative and even in cases become a desirable condition
- l. Manipulating situations in contradictory ways to gain in exposure, sympathy, and legal protection: AIDS is touted as not a gay disease, yet any attempt to quarantine those infected by HIV (or treat as with any other deadly, sexually transmitted disease) is condemned as "homophobic"
- m. Perverting two common ethical tests to justify the practice:
 - o "Would this be something you would want to be published on the front page of the newspaper?"
 - o In the past, this was shameful - technique now is to make acceptable and something of pride; "God made me this way", invokes divine authority to justify, thus no shame
 - o "What would Christ think or do in this situation?"
 - o By attributing the "condition" to God as the origin, attempts to bring legitimacy to it, thus in a perverted way justifies it

6. References:

- a. *"Homosexuality, a Biblical View"* by Greg Bahnsen; Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co, 1978
- b. *"Unnatural Affections"* by George Grant & Mark Horne; Legacy Communications, 1991
- c. *"When the Wicked Seize a City"* by Chuck & Donna McIlhenny & Frank York; Huntington House Publishers, 1993
- d. *"DOMA News"; Volume 1 Issue 1, November 1998, (714) 573-2252; Eric Christen*
- e. *"The Unhappy Gays - What Everyone Should Know About Homosexuality"; Tim LaHaye, 1978*
- f. *"With Benefit of Political Doxology"; The Washington Times, Linda Bowles, November 21, 1997*

7. Some Background History

- a. "Stonewall Riot" of 1969, 27 June
 - New York City; Greenwich Village
 - Police conducted a routine raid on a homosexual bar - riot broke out
 - Beginning point of the radical gay movement; resulted in "Gay Pride Parade" every year
- b. 1973 - American Psychiatric Association (APA) removed homosexuality as a mental illness from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Psychiatric Disorders (DSM)
 - Manual that defines forms of mental illnesses and sexual perversions
 - Bullied into removing from the DSM and creating new category: "Sexual Orientation Disturbance"
 - Changed to "ego-dystonic homosexuality" - if person satisfied with condition, he is OK
 - Net effect - claim can be made that the APA declares homosexuality as "normal"
- c. 1957 - The British House of Lords struck down laws against homosexuality

8. Selected Homosexual Organizations

- a. Human Rights Campaign of Washington D.C.
- b. ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power)
- c. Queer Nation
- d. Wham
- e. Wisk
- f. National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (D.C.)

9. Selected Organizations ministering Specifically to Homosexuals

- a. Exodus International (umbrella organization with over 75 similar ministries worldwide)
- b. L.I.F.E. of New York City, N.Y.

- c. Jesus People USA in Chicago, IL.
- d. White Stone Ministries in Boston, MA.
- e. Desert Stream Ministries in Santa Monica, CA.
- f. Regeneration, Baltimore, MD.
- g. Harvest USA; (“harvestusa.org”; (215) 342-7114; info@harvestusa.org)

10. Other Resources:

- a. “National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuals” (“www.narth.com”)