

Being a Gay Christian

What does the Bible really say?
This booklet is dedicated to all the gay woman and men who have been forced to believe that God does not love them.
To you, God says, I love you the way you are!

Thank you to:

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Introduction:

Scripture quoted from the New International Version Bible and the New King James Bible, unless otherwise stated.

"In our Judeo-Christian society the documents known as the Bible serve as the primary guide on most issues. It is interesting to note that many Christians take the references to homosexual acts literally while interpreting other text with great flexibility. One person reported listening to a nationally well known woman speak in her campaign against homosexuality She spent much time quoting impressively from the Bible and listener accepted much of what the speaker had to say until realizing that by Leviticus standards, the crusader had herself broken many biblical laws; women speaking in church, women teaching men, wearing a dress made of cotton and polyester, and probably others of which she was unaware. What does the Bible really say about homosexuality? Actually very little. Jesus said nothing at all, which is most significant. Considering the relatively small amount of attention the Bible gives to the subject, we must ask ourselves why this is such a volatile issue while other subjects (e.g. judgment, pride, hypocrisy) about which the scriptures say a great deal, receive much less passionate attention. Before looking at specific passages, let us note that everyone understands the scriptures on and through the light of what they have been taught. The Bible was not written in a cultural void, and many of its instructions and laws we simply classify as less relevant today (e.g. prohibition of eating pork)." Rev M Piazza, UFMCC

Nowhere in the Bible is the idea of people being and living in loving homosexual relationships, ever addressed. There are, however; statements made that are pertinently directed at certain homosexual acts. However, this booklet looks at what the Bible really says about the homosexual believer and how God views gay lifestyles and the ultimate test, What did Jesus actually say on the subject.

For many gay Christians, and non-Christians, the question of their sexuality has been a matter of considerable torment, anguish and a lot of uncertainty. For the gay Christian, the questions rose as a result of institutionalized dogmas with regard to their sexuality and their faith, are far more complex. The Bible teaches that "the just" (God's children) shall and should live by faith.

"The Just shall live by Faith!"

(Romans 1:1 7b)

Faith, very simply put, is the Truth that has been revealed by God's Spirit to an individual. This means that we need to revert to living by His Spirit and not live by a single verse here and there or randomly opening our Bibles and pointing to a single scripture. This is not God speaking to us or revealing His Will for our lives in this way. We need Revelation knowledge Greek: RHEMA.

In the Gospel of **Matthew 13:11**, Jesus tells His disciples that they have the Revelation Knowledge about certain things which others, who were not believers, did not have knowledge of. Therefore, in order to understand God's Will and Love for your life, you need to understand that He will reveal Himself to ALL HIS DISCIPLES, BELIEVERS!

Now, before reading any further, it is imperative that we pray and trust the Lord for His Holy Spirit to reveal Himself to us and His will on this subject.

The Bible is primarily divided into two parts, the Old Testament, originating from the Aramaic scriptures, and the New Testament, originating from the Greek scriptures. With this in mind, we need to understand that the time span of the writing of the

Bible stretches across many years, cultures and even language changes. In order to assist in this explanation, we will take a look at the Biblical scriptures generally quoted as the Anti-gay Scriptures in their progression as found in the Bible.

Anti-Gay Scriptures:

Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1-25)

A chief text for condemnation of homosexuality has been the story of Sodom. This story has often been interpreted as showing that the homosexual and the homosexual act are abominable to God. In the story, two angels in the form of men were sent to Sodom to the home of Lot. While they were there, all the men of the city, "both young and old surrounded the house --everyone without exception," and demanded that the visitors be brought out, "so that we can have sex with them (verse 5). Lot begged the men to leave his guests alone and take his daughters instead. The men of the city became angry and stormed the door. As a result, they were all struck blind by the angels.

There are several problems with the traditional interpretation of the passage. Whether or not the intent of the men of Sodom was sexual, the inhospitality and injustice coming from the mob and general characterizing the community were "the sin of Sodom". Jesus himself refers to the inhospitality of Sodom. If, indeed, the men were homosexuals, then why would Lot offer them his daughters? What I threatened here is rape. The story deserves another reading by all of us.

It should be noted that all of the men of Sodom could not have been homosexual or there would have been no need to destroy them since they would have all died off with no heirs. Quite likely they were a mixed group of evil men attempting to be abusive to people who were different. Ironically, gay woman and men are often the victim of that sin been treated inhospitably and abusively.

This is by no means, shape or form, a homosexual story but one of Idolatry (the worship of idols) and Adultery. These cities were deeply involved in Idolatry. Their materialistic lives were far greater than their spiritual lives for God. They no longer worshiped God but fell into the clutches of earthly pleasures and shunned His laws and decrees.

Jude tells the story of Sodom and Gomorrah in a nutshell. The people of these cities lusted after fallen angels (the Greek word used here is Heteros: meaning of uncertain affinity, other, different, altered, else, next one, another, some, strange also a word from where Heterosexual is derived). The men from all corners of Sodom (not only the supposedly 10% of whom were homosexuals) came and demonically enthused, inspired to gang-rape God's holy angels as to humiliate God.

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day ~ a similar way Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. **(Jude :6-7)**

What then is the sin of Sodom?

"Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did *detestable things before Me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen."

(Ezekiel 16:49-50)

* The word used here is often used in the Bible in the context of Idol worship!

"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will deal with you as you deserve, because you have despised my oath by breaking the covenant."

(Ezekiel 16:59)

Our God is a God of the Covenant! He detests it when we break our covenant with Him to run after other gods. He is a jealous God. Sodom and Gomorrah rejected God and followed and worshipped the devil.

Although the traditional interpretation of the Sodom story fails as an argument against homosexuality, there are several other Old Testament passages which do condemn homosexual acts. Again, it should be noted that these passages do not deal with same-sex orientation, nor is there any references to genital love between gay persons.

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."

God, in His infinite wisdom, forbade the believers to participate in open 'free-for-all' sexual practices such as those used in the rites of Baal worship (Satanic worship). The reason for this is that in the sexual act transference of spirits can take place and by being lured into the open sexual practices of satanic worship, one gives oneself up to easier acceptance of evil spirits. God instituted this law at this time as a result of growing idolatrous practices of the heathen people on earth, u Egyptians, Philistines etc. (who, consequently also ran Harlem where same sex partners were sold or abused for their sexual pleasures in exchange for favors or monetary favors).

The Strong's definition of the word Lie, used in the Leviticus Le means: To lie down (for rest, for sexual connotation, decease or any other purpose; at all; cast down; lodge; ravish; make lie.

Of thousands of Old Testament passages, only two make explicit reference to homosexual acts; **Leviticus 18:22 and Leviticus 20:1** Both of these passages are a part of the Levitical holiness code which is not kept by any Christian group. If it were enforced, almost every Christian would be excommunicated or executed. It had been logical argued that science and progress have made many of the Levitical laws irrelevant for us. For example, Tim LaHaye states that, although~ Levitical laws prohibit intercourse during menstruation, medical authorities do not view it as harmful; and, therefore, it should not be viewed as sinful. He further explains, "those laws were given 3, 50 years ago before showers and baths were convenient, before sanitary towels, disinfectants, and other improved means of sanitation had been invented". With that, LaHaye makes this law irrelevant and right so. Ironically, though, in his book, The Unhappy Gay, the Levitical laws are one of the chief cornerstones. Much of the holiness code is now irrelevant for us as moral law. Thus, having children which was of exceptional importance to the early Hebrews is now made less relevant by overpopulation, just as the prohibition against eating pork and shell-fish has been made irrelevant by refrigeration.

Reference to the term SODOMITE as from the King James Bible

Deuteronomy 23:17-18

"There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel. Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abominations unto the LORD thy God."

1 Kings 14:24

"And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel."

1 Kings 15:12

"And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made."

1 Kings 22:46

"And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land."

2 Kings 23:7

"And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove."

Let us take a look at the word Sodomite:

The Strong's Dictionary defines the word as:

1. Hebrew = Qādēsh meaning a (quasi) sacred person, i.e. (techn.) a (male) devotee (by prostitution) to licentious

idolatry: - Sodomite, unclean.

2. Hebrew = Qādēsh meaning feminine of above. A female devotee (i.e. prostitute): - harlot, whore.

As we can clearly see, the word sodomite has absolutely no connotation or proof to homosexual or gay relationships or living, but rather to prostitution for the sake of adulterous worship. Please refer to the New International Version Bible to see the above Scriptures~ its context and true translation. Both the male and female version of the word or term sodomite is reference to idol worshipping prostitutes. Even at a stretch of our imagination, we cannot deduce that thou sodomites were homosexual. Male prostitutes on their own are not necessarily homosexuals but perform either homo- or heterosexual favors for remuneration.

Romans 1:1-32

NB! This entire chapter must be read in context and in its entirety. The chapter concerns God's children living by faith in God and then also about the ungodly and unrighteous refusing to worship God but worship the Creature instead.

It is in this context that two significant scriptures are always singled out wrongly and used wrongly to condemn gay believers.

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's statement in **Romans 1:18-32** has been taken as the strong New Testament rejection of homosexuality. He is concerned about the influence of the pagan culture on the Roman Christians. After giving detailed description of a world that "exchanged the truth of God for lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator" he continues, "Therefore, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. The same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lusts for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men and received in themselves the due penalty of perversion."

What Paul was most likely referring to was homosexual temple prostitution which was performed by various cults (though far more cults used heterosexual prostitution). Again, Paul is not referring to same-sex love, and he clearly has no concept of persons for whom this lifestyle is "natural."

The above texts refer to the sexual orgy which was a very common practice in Roman-Greco culture of the day. Men and woman would, as an act of worship to some or other idol god, generally the god of fertility; Baal- and also the gods of the harvest, get together to have an orgy. They would overeat and consume copious amounts of alcohol. Drunk and full of demonic lust, they would oil each other up and have sexual intercourse: men with woman, woman with men, men with men, woman with woman. All of this in the context of idolatry worship, and naturally, going against their nature being either homo- or heterosexual.

Continuing with the passage we read in **Romans 1:21-30** that these were not God loving, God fearing, born-again, Spirit-lead Christians but God haters who preferred idol worship. That is the shameful sin. Verse 26 and 27 also shows that men and woman alike gave up their natural ways, and prostituted themselves for their god-less worship. They were the shrine prostitutes. God does not want any of His children to give up the natural way in which He made them, being gay or straight, to take on unnatural ways for which they were not created. By defying the natural way in which He created you, you would be symptomatically showing God that His creation is by no means good enough, therefore, nor is He.

Paul's other reference to homosexual acts is similar to that of **1 Timothy 1:8-11**. Both passages contain lists of persons to be excluded from the Realm of God. The interpretation of these passages depends on two Greek words which have always presented a problem for translators. In the King James Version, they are translated "effeminate" and "abusers of themselves with mankind." In the Revised Standard Version, they were combined and rendered) homosexuals; however, these are not the Greek words for homosexual, so that translations reflects the scholars' bias. The New International Version illustrates the difference in these two words by translating them "male prostitute" and "homosexual offenders". The Jerusalem Bible uses the terms "catamites and "sodomites". Catamites were youth kept especially for sexual purpose: they were usually paid large sums of money. Neither passage refers to persons of same-sex orientation, but to people who used their sexuality for personal gain.

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 homosexuals offenders, nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."

Strong's: 733, clearly indicates that the translation of the original Greek words used had no connotation with gay people whatsoever.

Greek = Arsenokoitēs = A sodomite: abuser of (that defiles) self with mankind

Strong's 730 + 2845

Greek = Arsēn = male, man

= Koitē = a couch; by extend. Cohabitation; by impl. The male sperm: bed, chambering, x conceive

From the above extract in the Strong's Dictionary, we can see that the original word which the translators translated as homosexuals is actually a sodomite, and this we have seen means a temple prostitute. The man described here is also an abuser, abusing his own body in his dealings with mankind (male and female?)

This certainly is not a man or woman living for Jesus, dedicated to one life committed partner.

1 Timothy 1:10

"For the fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers"

Again, the original word Paul used here was Arsenokoitēs. We cannot deduce much from the word alone so let us take a look at its context.

1 Timothy 1:9-10

"The lawless and the insubordinate, for the ungodly and for the sinners, for the unholy and the profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for the fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers ..."

Could a born-again gay Christian be a murderer of mother and father? The above are all ungodly, violent acts that a Spirit-filled person could not perform. They are non-consenting, non-loving acts between two people who do love the Lord nor follow God's Living Word!

NB

The Apostle Paul had recourse to many highly descriptive and accurate words in the rich Greek language. If he wanted to condemn homosexuality in general, he could have done so very easily. Furthermore, why did none of the other Apostles say anything to bring about 100% clarity?

The Final Test: What did Jesus say?

The final test is to find out what Jesus Himself said about homosexuality. Born-again Christians are followers of Christ and thus need to know what the Master said. The truth is, after much research and breaking down of sentences and sentence structures, and using words written and various means of translations, we cannot find any reference or a single word that Jesus used to denounce homosexuality and or gay relationships. This is a very significant thing to note as homosexuality existed at the time when Jesus walked the earth.

It ought to strike us as very odd, that in the context of the New Testament that Jesus did not say anything about homosexuality, seeing that it is made such a fuss of by people and religious leaders. Strange seeing that it is condemned by MAN in light of the great threat they claim homosexuality poses to Christianity, family life, and the society. Jesus saw injustice and religious hypocrisy as a far greater threat and sin to God.

Episcopal priest, Dr. Tom Homer has written that the Gospels imply in two places that Jesus' attitude toward gay woman and men would not have been hostile. The first is found in the story of Jesus healing the Centurion's servant. The word used for the servant is "pais" which in the Greek culture referred to a younger lover of an older more powerful or educated man. Clearly the story demonstrates an unusually intense love, and Jesus' response was wholly positive.

The other hint of Jesus' attitude is seen in his comments about eunuchs. Jesus opposed divorce in opposition to the abuses experienced by women. It is in the context of marriage which Jesus said that "some eunuchs were born so; others had been made eunuchs and still others choose to be eunuchs for the Kingdom's sake." **(Matthew 19:11-12)**

Jesus' remarks about celibacy and castration are clear, but a male child being born without testicles is a rare birth defect. It is only in our day that the Kinsey Institute in the United States has demonstrated that sexual orientation is likely determined prior to birth. It could well be that those to whom Jesus refers as being "born eunuchs" are the people we call lesbian or gay.

Jesus' attitude toward eunuchs differed greatly from the fundamentalist Pharisees of his day. To them, eunuchs were excluded from the covenant and barred from worship and participating in the community of faith. Jesus' graceful approach to eunuchs is beautifully pictured in the promise of the prophecy of **Isaiah 56:4-8**,

"To the eunuchs...I will give them an everlasting name that will not be taken away."

Except for Jesus telling His disciples in **Matthew 19:11-12** that some people are born that way, He is otherwise silent on the subject. Jesus does make mention of Sodom and Gomorrah in **Matthew 10:15** and in **Luke 10:12** where He tells His disciples that if cities rejected the Gospel, it would be more intolerable at judgment day for those cities than what it was for Sodom and Gomorrah. Nothing is said about being gay or about homosexuality!

We find this very important as Jesus makes strong mention to everything that is important in life. He strongly condemns that which must be condemned; He strongly praises that which is good. He never said a thing on being gay. Jesus clearly said that things are either in the light or in the dark, either black or white so there is no gray. The church today, calling themselves followers of Christ seem to make much noise of something Jesus Himself never uttered a word on. The church organizations seem to have moved what they feel should be unacceptable into the sinful nature, and also what is acceptable into the light irrespective of Jesus' teaching.

Fighting the Disease:

For the Christian, sin must be understood as a disease which results FROM a broken relationship with God and which results IN a broken relationship with one another and with ourselves. Jesus, therefore, tells us that the greatest command is to love God and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Christianity is not a religion with new rules and laws, but is rather a new relationship with God. Those things which the legalists are fond of labeling as "sins" are actually just symptoms of the much deeper disease resulting in alienation and estrangement. Much of the energy of the Church has been spent dealing with symptoms while leaving the disease intact. Jesus did not seem overly concerned about the legal transgressions of those to whom he ministered. Rather, he was much more concerned with healing the physical, spiritual, emotional, or relational brokenness of people. Perhaps if the Church would again give itself to the healing/reconciling ministry of Jesus, then some of the symptoms about which we are so concerned would begin to disappear.

That brings us to the question: Is homosexuality a symptom of brokenness? In some few cases perhaps so. Yet, obviously pointing fingers of blame and accusation is not Christ's way. Rather, Jesus accepted people as they were and allowed love and acceptance to work its miracle. However, most gay woman and men have been gay for as long as they can remember. For them, it is a much a natural characteristic as their eye color or which hand they are dominant with. At Kinsey Institute, USA, research has suggested that homosexuality may well be genetic or at least linked to some prenatal factors. Certainly most competent psychologists would concur that sexual orientation is set prior to the age of five in most persons. It is, therefore, not a matter of choice, so it cannot be a moral or ethical issue.

Can the homosexual be changed?

Many Christians insist that God can change/cure the homosexual. In the book, *The Third Sex*, there are six reported cases of homosexuals whom God has "cured". Of these six, at least four are known to have returned to their gay lifestyle. Yes, there are people who can be turned from homosexual to heterosexual and successfully live in the change.

These people initially adopted their 'new' sexuality as a result of a traumatic sexual event or experience in their lives. Circumstantial sexuality results from events such as a woman being brutally raped and then redefining her sexual orientation as a result of that traumatic event. Similarly, a young boy/adolescent being forced into a sexual act with another man could circumstantially persuade themselves that they are homosexual due to the act. In both these cases, neither love nor Christian principal was lived or applied. Satan clearly was involved and when it comes to the restoration of these individuals, God alone can restore them to whom He had created them to be.

Many gay woman and men spend most of their lives trying, with no success, to persuade God to change them. It is like trying to get God to change your eye color. We are taught from the Bible that when God gives us victory over any affliction, sin or trial, His victory is complete and full. Many gay woman and men who have been persuaded by 'healing the gay' ministries that God heals them, however, they never totally obtain victory over their homosexuality. All of these people will tell of their life-long battle against it. Is this then the perfect Victory that the Bible teaches?

What option then is left to these persons? They have been told that they can't be gay and be Christians; and since all efforts have failed in their struggle not to be gay, then their only recourse, according to the Church, is that they can't be Christian. So the Church has discounted or discarded as much as 10% of the population.

If they are excluded from the life of the Christian community, who then will tell them of God's inclusive love and of Jesus' reconciling death? Are they left to assume that God is so narrow-minded as to exclude them for something over which they have no control and for a choice they did not make? When will the Church finally be brave enough to say with Paul, "in Christ there is neither Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female," gay or straight. God has enough love for all

EVERYONE need Jesus Christ?

No person, irrespective of race, creed and sexual orientation is sanctified and justified or righteous in themselves. That is why we need a Savior. Jesus had no sin and He went to the cross innocently to take our sins and iniquities, pain and disease, on Him. He was the Lamb led to the slaughter for us. So when anyone receives Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they make a covenant with Him and by association, in this covenant, are saved, sanctified, justified and made righteous!

If your salvation depended on you first changing your sexual orientation from homosexual to heterosexual, then you would not need Jesus Christ as salvation then would be in your own hands. It is not!

God separated the first Adam into male and female. He created sexual organs for the purpose of procreation and commissioned Adam and Eve to multiply (physically) and to fill the earth. The emphasis was never on the sex or sexuality but on the multiplication and on their covenant relationship with God.

When Adam listened to Satan, he actually rejected God and God's Word. This plummeted all of Adam's seed: mankind, into sin and separation from God.

The second Adam, Jesus, brought restoration and forgiveness. Mankind could now return to God's Graces and His presence through and only through Jesus Christ.

The church, through Jesus Christ, also now had a great commission:

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned"

(Mark 16:15-16)

The Church (all believers baptized into Jesus) must now procreate spiritually, that is, we must lead souls to Christ. This is our chief mandate! Sexual orientation is not our prime criteria, but our covenant with Christ is!

You have now been shown that Jesus had never denounced homosexuality. He did not come into the world to condemn it but through Him the world will be saved. We have taken a look at most of the so-called 'anti-gay' scriptures and we saw that in the original text and context, they by no means condemned homosexuality but rather exposed idolatry and other evil behavior. We have now also seen that to conclude a covenant with Jesus Christ is essential and to conclude a covenant with each other is necessary.

Now proven that homosexuality is not the 'abominable sin' and that born-again Christians who are gay and are in a gay partnership/relationship, should conclude a covenant (life commitment/Holy Union/Marriage), we must also take note that as a gay Christian, you too are subject to the moral standards and principals that Jesus had set for all people. We cannot condone promiscuity and living in sin. As a Christian who is actively gay, you must also strive to live a righteous and holy life in accordance with God's Word.

If you have never received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then I would like to encourage you to pray this prayer and then contact me once you have done so. We will be happy to welcome you into the family of believers.

A Prayer to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior

Almighty God our Father,

I come to you in the Name of Your Son Jesus Christ.

I know that I have many sins and that judgment hangs over me as a result of mankind's falling from Grace.

I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son

And that He came to bring restoration in the world of sin and to reconcile man to God.

I believe that by the Blood of Jesus,

Which He shed for me at the cross of Calvary,

I can be washed, sanctified and made whole.

I now accept that sacrifice and welcome You, Jesus, into my heart.

I receive You, Jesus Christ, as my Lord and Savior.

Father, I ask You to wash me clean,

and forgive me of all my sins.

Put my name into the book of life.

Fill me with Your Spirit and Your Power,

Right now in Jesus Name.

I thank You and praise You Lord

For I know that I am a child of Yours,

and that You are my Father

I love You Lord!

Amen!