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## **Homosexuality**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# Homosexuality.

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## Topics.

- The definition of homosexuality.
  - The definition of sodomite.
  - Bibles written over 500 years ago.
  - The history of the word homosexual and the Bible.
  - William Tyndales Bible and modern English Bibles.
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## INTRODUCTION

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**Introduction:** what is shared in the following study is not a dogmatic or inflexible view, but rather a brief overview, that hopefully will raise some questions, and give further insights that will help the reader with their own study.

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## THE DEFINITION OF HOMOSEXUALITY

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The word Homosexuality is found in the following two verses:

- **1 Corinthians 6:9:** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral (fornicators in KJV), nor idolaters, nor adulterers, (nor effeminate in KJV), nor men who practice homosexuality (nor abusers of themselves with mankind in KJV).
- **1 Timothy 1:8-10:** Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, <sup>9</sup> understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, <sup>10</sup> the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality (them that defile themselves with mankind in KJV), enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine.

**The definition of homosexuality:** amongst biblical theologians there are various views concerning the meaning of the word, 'homosexuality' following are the two most common views:

1. The word homosexuality comes from the Greek word (*malakos*) meaning effeminate which carries the idea of soft, (i.e., fine clothing), most likely referring to the wealthy and rich who can afford such clothing. Figuratively it carries the idea of a catamite which refers to a young boy kept by an adult man for sexual intercourse. In Roman times, soldiers had young boys to carry their army gear and would use that boy to satisfy their sexual lust since there were no woman available.
2. The word homosexuality is a compound word: 'arsen' which means man and "koite" or 'koitas' or 'koitai' (depending on a verb or a noun), meaning bed, and carries the idea of men who bed with other men.
  - **Leviticus 18:22:** (ESV) You shall not lie with a man as with a woman; it is an abomination.

- **Leviticus 20:13:** If a man lies with a man as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

Paul is saying, "Remember the law of Leviticus, a man is not to lie with a man as with a woman."

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## THE DEFINITION OF SODOMITE

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The word 'sodomite' comes from the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, and refers to someone who engages in anal sex (especially a male with another male). Following is a brief overview of the story of Sodom: taken from (Genesis: 19: 1-25). Two angels/men stay in Lot's home." The men of Sodom young and old, and all the people to the last man, surround Lot's house, and forcefully attempt to enter it with the intention of sexually laying with the angels/men.

The two angels/men pull Lot into the house, and strike the men at the door with blindness. The two angels/men lead Lot, his wife and his two daughters out of the city, and the LORD rained sulfur and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah. It should be highlighted, the men in this story, were extremely wicked, violent, and intended to forcefully rape the two angels/men.

**Tradition and Sodom:** it is believed God destroyed ancient Sodom because He hates homosexuality, but is this the only reason he rained fire and sulphur on these cities, consider the following, Ezekiel tells us that the guilt of Sodom was:

- Pride.
- Excess of food.
- Prosperous ease.
- Did not aid the poor and needy.
- They were haughty.
- Committed an abomination before God. (Ezek. 16:49-50).

**NOTICE:** there is no mention of homosexuality, though it is true the words, 'they committed an abomination before God,' could be taken to include it, but the case we read of in the story of Sodom, is of wicked men attempted to force themselves upon other men with the intention of raping them.

**The definition of abusers:** the word abusers, comes from the Greek word (*arsenokoïtes*) and means a sodomite which in biblical times referred to a citizen of Sodom. In English it refers to people who treat others with cruelty and violence, and afflict harm, and hurt onto others:

- Physically.
- Sexually.
- Verbally.
- Psychologically.
- Emotionally.
- Intellectually.
- Spiritually.

**CONCLUSION:** linking the word Sodomite with the word abusers, implies that the sexual relationships that are condemned in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah are sexual encounters that involve, violence, abuse, and forcing oneself onto others to gratify one's own lust (i.e., rape).

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## BIBLES WRITTEN OVER 500 YEARS AGO

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During the Reformation, over five hundred years ago, old Bibles written in French, German, Irish, Gaelic, Czechoslovakian, Polish languages etc., translated (Leviticus 18:22) and (Leviticus 20:13) (1 Corinthians 6:9) in the following way:

### **Leviticus 18:22**

1. Today's English version: translates the verse: Man shall not lie with man, for it is an abomination.
2. 500 years ago, the German version: translates the verse: Man shall not lie with young boys as he does with a woman, for it is an abomination.

### **Leviticus 20:13**

1. Today's English version: translates the verse:
2. 500 years ago, the German version: translates the verse with the words, young boys.

### **1 Corinthians 6:9**

1. Today's English version: translates the verse: nor men who practice homosexuality.
2. 500 years ago, the German version: translates the original Greek word arsenokoitai, as, boy molesters will not inherit the kingdom of God.

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## THE HISTORY OF THE WORD HOMOSEXUAL AND THE BIBLE

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The word homosexual was first introduced in German in 1868, but was not translated into any English Bible until 1946, when Luther Allan Weigle, head of the RSV translation team, introduced it into the Revised Standard Version. However, after being challenged, the "the RSV committee decided the word 'homosexual' was an inaccurate translation of 'malakoi' and 'arsenokoitai' in (1 Corinthians 6:9) and later replaced it with 'sexual perverts,' referring to those who were abusive in their pursuit of sexual encounters.

Unfortunately, Luther Allan Weigle, had signed a contract stating that he would not make any changes in the RSV for 10 years, and during those 10 years, translation teams were working on the translations of the first New American Standard Bible, The Living Bible, and New International Version Bible, which used the RSV as their basis for including the word 'homosexual' in their translations. The historical context of Paul's time shows that pederasty, sex with slaves, temple prostitution and other abusive forms of sex were prevalent in the first century when the apostle Paul wrote 1 Corinthians, and Paul did not approve of the reprehensible same-sex activity that involved various abuses.

**It is interesting to notice:** the Bible contains six verses that appear to condemn homosexual activity, and contains more than 200 verses that condemn heterosexual activity, which means it is important for us to determine the type of homosexual or heterosexual activity that is being condemned, especially when it is considered, first century people had no notion of same-sex, committed monogamous relationships (especially

Christian ones), for all mention of same-sex relationships in Scripture are in the context of violence and God haters etc., which means they did not have the perspective we are able to have today.

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## WILLIAM TYNDALES BIBLE AND MODERN ENGLISH BIBLES

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Following is the first verse homosexual is used in the English Bible

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10:** do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality (Greek malakos),<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

The word homosexuality comes from the Greek word malakos, and means soft, effeminate and catamite, which carries the idea of a boy kept for homosexual practices.

William Tyndale's was the first to publish the Bible in the English language during the 1500s, he translated the verse in the following way:

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10:** Do ye not remember how that the vnrighteous shall not inheret the kyngdome of God? Be not deceived. For nether fornicators nether worshyppers of ymages nether whormongers nether weaklinges nether abusars of them selves with the mankynde **10** nether theves nether the coveteous nether dronkardes nether cursed speakers nether pillers shall inheret the kyngdome of God.

Rather than translate the verse homosexual, William Tyndale translated it, 'abusers of themselves with the mankind.' Based on the fact abuse is link with the sexual act, many reason the expression, "abusers of themselves," does not refer to all homosexual relationships, but only to those involving abuse.

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Following is the second verse homosexual is used in the English Bible

- **1 Timothy 1:10:** the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality (Greek arsenokoites), enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine.

The Greek word arsenokoitai translated into English is, men who lie with men, it is derived from two Greek words, arseno, which translates to males (men), and koitai, which translates to couch or bed. The literal translation of arsenokoitai is male couching or bedding together, which is an ancient euphemism for sleeping with or having sex.

William Tyndale's translated the verse in the following way:

- **1 Timothy 1:10:** and whormongers: to them that defile them selves with mankynde: to menstealers: to lyars and to periured and so forth yf ther be eny other thinge that is cotrary to holsome doctrine

Instead of translating the verse homosexual, William Tyndale translated it, 'defile themselves with the mankind.'

**SUMMING IT UP:** this topic is not as black and white as much of traditional Christianity has made it out to be, and has caused a tremendous amount of hatred and cruelty toward those who do not deserve to be treated in such a manner. For these reasons it is too important and too big a topic to fully cover here. For anyone interested in understanding a more compassionate view, visit the title:

- Same Sex Relationships. (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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