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Is Homosexuality a Sin?

Same Sex Relationships.

(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.



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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.

Is Homosexuality a Sin?

TEACH IT, DON'T DEMAND IT

Thank you for visiting this topic, my aim in this study is to dispel some of the antipathy and hostility there is toward those who love Christ, but through no fault of their own, have been born with a natural attraction toward those of the same sex gender or have this attraction, because of some medical, biological or genetic influence.

SIN AND SEPARATION FROM GOD

Every Christian loves God, and does not want their lives to be controlled by bad habits and self-centred attitudes that can harm their relationship with Him and with others, but the reality is that sin, which we all have dwelling within, separates humans from God, and no Christian wants to be separated from Him, rather all who belong to Christ want to grow closer to God and become more Christ like with each passing day so what exactly is this thing called sin, that separates us from God. If a poll was taken of every church and denomination that exists it would find an endless list of different opinions from every one of them. It would be discovered that everybody seems to have their own idea as to what is right and what is wrong, so if Christians want to rid sin from their lives, where would they start and whose list should they follow? Perhaps it would be better to forget what everyone else thinks and go right to the source, the Bible itself, could God's will be found by listing every sin mentioned in the Bible and if so, how are Christians to handle edicts that seem to change over time?

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BIBLE HISTORY

Bible history shows that laws regarding slaves, personnel hygiene, dietary laws, diplomatic relationships with neighbouring nations and laws regarding ownership of land have all changed over the years so what is right for our culture and for this day and age is obviously different to what was right in past history. Paul told Christians over and over again that trying to live their lives by a long list of do's and don'ts was a lost cause, because no-one is good enough to follow such a list, day in and day out. Furthermore, he said such attempts would only bring heartache and failure for no-one except Jesus Christ himself is capable of living a perfect life as the following verses show:

- **Romans 3:23** ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- **1 Peter 2:22** ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.
- **1 John 3:5** ⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

Added to the fact that none of us can attain to a sin free life, if any believer attempts to earn their righteousness through good deeds, they are at the same time rejecting the very work that Christ achieved for them on the bloodstained cross of Calvary

- **Galatians 2:21** ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.
- **Galatians 3:21** ²¹ Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.

- **Galatians 5:1-3** ¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.
- **Galatians 5:4** ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

Equally as bad as rejecting the very work that Christ achieved for us on the cross of Calvary, is the fact that when we attempt to earn righteousness by the law, we make Jesus death count for nothing, but does, this mean that trying to do the right thing is a lost cause? First and most important, those who belong to Christ must settle in their hearts and minds that their salvation only comes through Jesus Christ and no other. No-one can earn their way to eternal life and everlasting glory, nevertheless that doesn't change the fact that all Christians still want to please God and find His will for their lives, so how is that done? The following verses will help answer this question since they clearly show what is at the very heart and soul of God's will. Jesus in the following few words sums up the entire law:

- **Matthew 22:37-40** ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

James the brother of Jesus wrote:

- **James 2:8** ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

Jesus told his disciples:

- **John 13:34** ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

From these verses we see that the same royal commandment lies at the heart of both the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. God has never changed, but the political environment over time has, and the cultures we all live in are different from one another. Today's Christians don't face the same problems the early Patriarchs faced. Nor were the apostles encumbered with some of the things believers have to deal with today. Each generation and each culture is different. What may be a loving act in one culture may be cause for war in another, but in spite of human differences, we are all given the same basic principles to carry out in our lives which are summed up in the next few verses.

- **Matthew 22:37-40 (ESV)** ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (cited from the English Standard Bible).

Jesus is saying on these two Commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets, simply put, all Christians are to love God first, and then love others, as they love themselves, every Christian who embraces and follows these two laws is following God's will for their lives and though they remain a sinner before God they are not living in sin. Paul expressed the same thing in the following two verses:

- **Gal. 5:14** ¹⁴ the whole law (concerning human relationships) is complied with in one precept. You shall love your neighbour as (you do) yourself (cited from the Amplified Bible). (Gal. 5:14).
- **Romans 13:8-10** ⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Based on these verses sin is simply this:

- If we do not love God and put Him first, it is a sin.
- If we deliberately hurt or harm ourselves or others physically, financially, sexually, emotionally or spiritually, it is a sin.

Many tend to think the Ten Commandments are simply a list of do's and don'ts, but the spirit underpinning these laws is love, this is because each law concerning the behaviour and actions of humankind protect the innocent from harm and hurt. Love is the basis for all of God's laws, Old and New Testament, therefore sin is the absence or distortion of this love.

Once this truth lights up the darkness in our minds it raises the following question:

- Are people who are living true to the natural romantic sexual attraction they have toward people of the same sex gender, that through no fault of their own, they have been born with, or for some medical, biological or genetic reason developed at a very early age (probably by age five), that are in a loving and caring relationship, devoted to God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and are not breaking any laws, but all the while showing kindness to others, committing a sin?

Before answering this question, a spotlight should be shone upon the fact that whenever the Bible condemns same sex relationships it has in focus heterosexuals who chose to be sexually active with each other, and the verses are always in the context of people who deny God, rape others are violent and rebellious and in many verses they are worshippers of idols. Perhaps the answer to the above question, is not an issue of whether a person is gay or straight but an issue of love in the relationship. With this in mind, and before condemning anyone to hell-fire, it may be a good idea to ponder what we would answer, if the law of love and the spirit of wisdom and grace asked us the following three questions:

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- Is the relationship encouraging both partners' spiritual growth and their relationship with God?"
- Is, the relationship loving, fulfilling and spiritually healthy for both partners?
- Are those in the relationship causing others to be hurt or harmed in anyway?

When we reject and condemn to eternal damnation those who love the Lord Jesus Christ simply because they are living true to the natural romantic sexual attraction they have toward people of the same sex gender, that through no fault of their own, they have been born with, or for some medical, biological or genetic reason developed at a very early age we may be in danger of bringing judgment on ourselves, since we all have dwelling within our own bodies particular sinful aberrations and dysfunctions and no-one is able to stand before Christ free of sin, added to this not one of us is saved without God's abundant grace.

PONDER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION

If in the resurrection all Christians become as the angels and there is no marriage in eternity, is God concerned with the superficial things that worry us? Does God stress over a person's sexual orientation, or what their church affiliation is if they are fulfilling the royal law of love and are not breaking any laws or bringing harm to any other human? If the code of a Christian life is to live under the New Testament law of love, do things that do not bring any harm to other humans have any meaning to God?

I, like the Jews of old who had to work their way through adopting Gentiles into their midst and work out-together what that meant for each group, still have certain questions that I am working through myself and for that reason my aim in these articles is not to tell anyone what they should or should not believe. The aim is to simply present information that hopefully will help the reader come to their own conclusion, especially those who have been influenced to dehumanize homosexuals and lesbians by the collective consciousness of their generation (as I was), or who have been influenced by certain religious leaders to harshly judge, reject and condemn everyone to eternal damnation who is in a same sex relationship.

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