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Sodomite and Shrine Prostitution.

Same Sex Relationships.

(2019)

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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.

Sodomite (Shrine Prostitution) (Deuteronomy 23:17).

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.

INTRODUCTION

This study looks at the word sodomite as used in Deuteronomy chapter twenty-three to discover if it can be used to condemn men and women who love the Lord Jesus Christ and who are living in a committed same sex relationship, doing good and who are not breaking any laws. The following verse is one of the verses used to condemn to eternal damnation the men and woman mentioned above:

- There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a *sodomite (qadesh)* of the sons of Israel (Deut. 23:17).

Is using this verse to condemn to eternal damnation men and woman in same sex relationships a proper use of this verse or reading far more into it than it is actually saying, especially when it is realized that this is the only verse in the entire Bible that uses the word sodomite. The word sodomite is from the Hebrew word (*qadesh*) and from Strong's Concordance it refers to a sacred person and devotee by prostitution to licentious idolatry; this clearly shows that the Hebrew word (*qadesh*) translated sodomite means a sacred devotee by prostitution and that it has nothing to do with people living in a loving committed same sex relationship. The translators of the King James Bible have translated the Hebrew word (*qadesh*) to sodomite rather than the better translation shrine or cult prostitute which is what the word (*qadesh*) means in the Hebrew language. The following shows that most modern Bible versions have correctly translated the Hebrew word (*qadesh*) in this verse to a cult prostitute and not as sodomite.

The English Standard Bible says:

- None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, and none of the sons of Israel shall be a cult prostitute (Deut. 23:17).

The New American Bible says:

- None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, nor shall any of the sons of Israel be a cult prostitute (Deut. 23:17).

The Amplified Bible says:

- There shall be no cult prostitute of the daughters of Israel neither shall there be a cult prostitute of the sons of Israel (Deut. 23:17).

The New King James Bible says: p

- There shall be no ritual harlot of the daughters of Israel or a perverted one of the sons of Israel (Deut. 23:17) (the words perverted one refers to the act of prostitution in religious rituals).

The New International Bible says:

- No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine prostitute (Deut. 23:17).

This verse is rarely used anymore against homosexuality because it's now widely understood that the Hebrew word (*qadesh*) means, a devotee by prostitution or a shrine prostitute (male or female). Most versions of the Bible now reflect this translation, but before this the King James Bible read sodomite rather than temple prostitute. For those who believed that the sin of the sodomites was homosexuality, this verse appeared to be condemning homosexuality. This shows how errors in translation can create a snowball effect and how important it is in some instances to look at the original meaning of a Hebrew word (especially when an entire group of men and woman who love the Lord Jesus Christ are being condemned and cast out of the Christian church).

Following is another five very important facts:

1. The English word homosexual is of modern origin, and wasn't used until long after the original manuscripts of the Bible were written.
2. There is no Greek or Hebrew word in the Bible that is equivalent to the English word homosexual.
3. Homosexual is a compound English word made up from the Greek word (*homo*) meaning the same, and the Latin word (*sexualis*) which means sex. The 1946 the Revised Standard Bible was the first translation to use the word homosexual, prior to this the word is not found in Scripture.
4. The word homosexual does not refer to heterosexuals having sex with other heterosexuals, because their natural sexual orientation and attraction is toward the opposite sex, this is why same sex relations between heterosexuals is referred to as perverted and sinful, for it is contrary to their natural sexual orientation, whereas the natural sexual orientation and attraction of homosexuals is toward those of the same sex, for them to think of being sexual with the opposite sex is repulsive and repugnant.
5. In ancient years when the scrolls of the Bible were being written no one understood the difference between heterosexuals lusting and perverting sex with those of the same sex and homosexual men and lesbian woman whose natural sexual orientation and attraction is toward those of the same sex. When it is considered that people of past generations believed blindness, deafness and the inability to speak and many other illnesses, sickness and diseases that we have the knowledge to heal today were caused by evil gods called demons possessing people with such illnesses, it is easy to understand that they knew nothing of men and women, who for whatever biological, scientific or medical reason have a natural sexual orientation that is attracted toward others of the same sex.

SHRINE PROSTITUTION

Shrine prostitution was a wide spread problem during the time of the Patriarchs, because it was widely believed that having sex with the temple prostitute (either male or female) conveyed a blessing from the god of that particular temple to the participant, and having sex with the priest or priestess of that temple was believed to be paying homage and having intimate relations with the god of that temple. God was against the Israelites participating in such activities for obvious reasons, they were called to be a people set apart for God and not to mingle with the nations and their customs, which surrounded them.

The Hebrew word (*qadesh*) when translated in Greek is the word (*arsenokoitai*). In the English language there seems to be a relationship with the Greek language between the following words: immoral persons, sodomites and kidnappers, the three Greek words for these are, pornoi, arsenokoitai and andrapodistai. The following list shows how these Greek words have been translated in the major Bibles.

Pornoi, Arsenokoitai and Andrapodistai.

KJV: pornoi is translated whoremonger, arsenokoitai to them that defile themselves and andrapodistai to men-stealers of mankind.

NIV: pornoi is translated adulterers, arsenokoitai to perverts and andrapodistai to slave traders

NKJ: pornoi is translated fornicators, arsenokoitai to sodomites and andrapodistai to kidnappers.

RSV: pornoi is translated immoral persons, arsenokoitai to sodomites and andrapodistai to kidnappers.

NEB: pornoi is translated fornicators, arsenokoitai to sodomites and andrapodistai to kidnappers.

Though these translations agree on the general sense of the words pornoi, arsenokoitai and andrapodistai, they show there is no clear-cut agreement as to exactly what they mean. The Greek lexicon gives the following information concerning the three Greek words pornos, arsenokoitai and andrapodistai.

Pornoi: is derived from the verb (*pernemi*) and means to sell and refers to a male who prostitutes his body to another's lust, a male who is for hire and who indulges in unlawful sexual intercourse (i.e., a male prostitute and fornicator).

Arsenokoitai: is made up of the Greek words (*arseno*) and (*koitai*). The word (*koitai*) in Greek, literally means beds and is commonly used as a euphemism for one who has sex and the Greek word (*arseno*) can be translated as a male bedder based on these two words that surround the word (*arsenokoitai*) it becomes clear that (*arsenokoitai*) refers to a male prostitute who sells himself for sex.

The New American Bible: offers the following footnote that sheds light on the historical context of the time:

- The Greek word translated as boy prostitutes may refer to catamites, (i.e. boys or young men who were kept for the purposes of prostitution), a practice not uncommon in the Greco-Roman world. In Greek mythology this was the function of Ganymede, the cupbearer of the gods, whose Latin name was Catamus (NAB).

During the era of Paul and the early church there was a common practice in which certain men would have slave pet boys whom they sexually exploited. These boys were prepubescent and without beards so they seemed like females. Today, this practice is referred to as pederasty, but even regardless of this grossly corrupt practice the word (*pornos*) clearly refers to a prostitute.

The following three interpretations:

1. The enslaved male prostitute.
2. The male-bedder.
3. The slave dealer.

Clearly lead us to understand that in this context the Greek word (*arsenokoitai*) can refer to a male boy and the prostitute man who literally lies on the bed with him or to those who steal others and sell them (today this would embrace men who kidnap young teenage girls to sell as sex slaves on the worldwide black-market (the three biggest money making industries that destroy life worldwide today are weapons of war drugs and selling human sex slaves).

The use of the word sodomite cannot be used to condemn men and woman who love the Lord Jesus Christ, are law abiding citizens and show kindness to others, but for whatever biological, medical or scientific reasons have a natural orientation and disposition toward people of the same sex gender, as the word sodomite carries the meaning of temple or cult prostitutes; male prostitutes (those who sell sex for money) and men who take young boys for the purpose of sex. Both the heterosexual and homosexual community condemn these practices. Those who use Deuteronomy chapter twenty-three verse seventeen to condemn homosexuals are not only reading far more into the verse than God intended since the focus is a shrine or temple prostitutes, but may also be in very real danger of bringing God's judgment upon themselves.

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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