



## Homosexuality and the Church

Over the past 30 years the issue of Homosexual relationship have come into the mainstream. In many churches today there is discussion of whether Homosexuality is right and whether as churches we should accept it as a legitimate alternative lifestyle.

### The Case for Homosexuality:-

**1) We were born this way!** - over the last 30 years science seems to suggest that the orientation to be homosexual is down not to conditioning in your up bringing, but down to genetics. Homosexual Christians argue if they are born this way then God has made them this way and therefore it must be right. After all why would God condemn them for the way He has made them?

**2) They say that there is clear evidence that some of the great men and women in the bible were homosexual.**

Ruth and Naomi were lesbians – Ruth Ch 1 v 16 – 17

David and Jonathan were in a sexual relationship – 1 Samuel 18 v 1 – 4

Daniel and Aspenaz – Daniel Ch 1 v 9

They say that the NIV and other translations have taken the sexual words used in the original Hebrew and softened them down to mean friendships.

**3) The bible itself no where condemns the act of homosexuality as it is today :-** 1 man with another to the exclusion of all others. They say what the bible is saying is speaking against the sin call “Pederasty” This sin is about an older man taking advantage of a younger man – rape situations or prostitution but does not refer to a life long commitment. Even if you can point to the Old Testament text talking about homosexuality it does not mean that it is wrong in light of the New Covenant we have through Jesus.

**4) Jesus Himself never condemned homosexuality but actively blessed in regard to the centurion and his slave boy.** Jesus seemed more concerned with people and their relationship with God rather than their sexual orientation. Jesus taught about love and grace and that has to be the base that we judge sexual relationship on.

### Arguments against Homosexuality

**1) Genesis 1 – 2 make it clear the original plan of God for humanity was the joining of 1 man to 1 woman.** In this passage we see that God makes a man and woman blesses them and tells them to go forward and multiply. Here we see the perfect will of God for sexual relationships. As one quote put it.” *if God had wanted us to have been homosexual he would have made Adam and Steve not Adam and Eve.*”

**2) Even if people are born with that orientation it does not make it right before God.** The Bible makes it clear that the Fall of humanity has effected everything that happens in regard to humanity. God perfect creation has fallen and as a result all manner of wrong things occur. People are born disabled – the same evidence that says homosexuals cannot help also says that paedophiles may be born this way. This mean that this is not a sin as well. The fall effects our genetics as well as our behaviour being born like something does not mean it is in line with God’s will.

**3) Scripture makes it absolutely clear that homosexuality is wrong.** Although certain laws may not be applicable today in the Old Testament their intent still is. The verses that refer to the wrongness of homosexual practice still are applicable even is the context is no longer so. If homosexual practice is as Scripture says and abomination in the eyes of God :- then does an unchanging God change His mind?

Genesis Ch 19 v 5 – 10

1 Kings Ch 14 v 24: Ch 15 v 12 Ch 22 v 46

Lev Ch 18 v 22 – 24

Romans Ch 1 v 18 – 28

Jude 7

1 Corinthians Ch 6 v 9 – 11

Lev Ch 20 v 13

1 Timothy Ch 1 v 8 – 11

Judges Ch 19 v 11 – Ch 20 v 13

**4) 2000 years of church History say that it is wrong!**

Jesus said I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. If we believe that the church is God’s institution and that he rules over it, then we must believe that what the church has discerned has been given to it by Revelation. The result of this is that for 2000 years the church has held to the view in line with scripture that homosexuality is a sin before God and is not an alternative lifestyle for humanity. God has built His church , and He has also established a moral line in regard to homosexuality