

BUILDING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

The Bible and Homosexuality, Part 2

The Key Question:

Is homosexual activity a sin that must be repented of, forsaken, and forgiven, or, given the right context and commitment, can we consider same-sex sexual intimacy a blessing worth celebrating and solemnizing?

- Kevin DeYoung, *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?*

4 Presuppositions:

- 1) Our conclusions must be rooted in ...
- 2) Our application of our ethical position must be ...
- 3) The focus will be on ...
- 4) The Gospel offers ...

The Primary Texts*

Romans 1: The Fallenness of Man

2 revelations:

Romans 1:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it **the righteousness of God is revealed** from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 1:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸ For **the wrath of God is revealed** from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Both revelations depend upon _____.

God does not condemn the _____ nor the _____.

However, no one can make an honest claim to either condition. (See: Romans 3:10-18)

3 exchanges as a result of human depravity:

Romans 1:21-23 (ESV)

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and **exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images** resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

1st exchange: The glory of _____ for the foolishness of _____ (see: Isa. 44:9-20)

Romans 1:24-25 (ESV)

²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because **they exchanged the truth about God for a lie** and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

2nd exchange: The _____ of God for a _____

Result?

“impurity” (*akatharsia*) =

(Rom. 6:19; 2 Cor.12: 21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 4:19; 5:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 2:3; 4:7)

Romans 1:26-27 (ESV)

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women **exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature**; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

3rd exchange: Giving up _____ relations with members of the _____ sex for relations with those of the _____ sex.

Homosexuality is seen as a stark example of ...

Truth: “Homosexual behavior is a sin, not according to who practices it or by what motivation they seek it, but because that act itself, as a truth-suppressing exchange, is contrary to God’s _____.”

-Kevin DeYoung

Result: Death deserved

Romans 1:28-32 (ESV)

²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

A debased mind (depravity) leads to ...

God’s judgment is on those who _____ these sins *and* those who _____ them.

1st Corinthians 6 and 1st Timothy 1: Paul’s Challenges to Sin-saturated People

2 Greek words:

malakoi

arsenokoitai

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ Or 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**, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Timothy 1:8-11 (ESV)

⁸ Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ the sexually immoral, **men who practice homosexuality**, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹ in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

The revisionist argument:

pederasty

prostitution

Defining difficult words – 3 rules:

- 1) Our English translations are almost always right, especially when they basically say the same thing.
- 2) Words have a semantic range of meaning.
- 3) _____ is king.

Septuagint*:

Lev.18:22 *meta arsenos ou koimēthēsē koitēn gynaikos* (“ you shall not lie with a male as with a woman”)

Lev.20:13 *hos an koimēthē meta arsenos koitēn gynaikos* (“ whoever shall lie with a male as with a woman”)

Bottom line?

This understanding of malakoi and arsenokoitai (as outlined above) fits with the consensus of modern English translations, fits with the ethics of the Old Testament, fits with the training Paul would have received as a Jewish scholar, and, most importantly, fits within the context of Paul's argument. It's as if in 1 Corinthians 6 Paul is saying, “Do not be deceived: the sexually immoral will not inherit the kingdom of God, and this includes those who have sex as a part of a pagan ritual, those who have sex with someone other than their spouse, men who play the passive role in homosexual activity, and— in keeping with the general prohibition found in the Torah— any male who has sex with another male.” The disputed words are not so broad as to include feminized heterosexual behavior or so narrow as to exclude everything but exploitative homosexual behavior. Both terms refer to men who have sex with other men, the passive and the active partners. Paul is saying what we find hard to hear but what the rest of the Bible supports and most of church history has assumed: homosexual activity is not a blessing to be celebrated and solemnized but a sin to be repented of, forsaken, and forgiven.

- Kevin DeYoung, *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* (p. 68).

NEXT WEEK: The Church and Homosexuality

*Much of tonight's content is drawn from *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* By Kevin DeYoung