

## SAME SEX MARRIAGES & RELATED MATTERS

Text: Genesis 2:18, 21-22

INTRO: Over the past several years sexual perversion has become popularized in our society. Recently the Massachusetts Supreme Court has sought to give legal sanction to such perversion, and judges in various parts of our country have been performing ceremonies to unite same sex couples. While this matter certainly has political overtones, it is not really a matter of politics. The God who created mankind has legislated concerning same sex relationships.

### I. GOD'S WILL REGARDING HUMAN SEXUALITY IS REFLECTED IN SCRIPTURE FROM THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY.

- A. God noted man's need for a companion in life. Vs. 18-20.
- B. God made a woman to be companion & helper to man, vs. 21-23.
- C. On the basis of God's creative will, that male/female relationship served as a model to be duplicated throughout succeeding generations, vs. 24-25.

### II. THE FIRST RECORDED DEVIATIONS FROM GOD'S PATTERN.

- A. Many scholars believe the sin of Ham against Noah, Gen. 9:22-24, involved homosexuality. Such an inference may be legitimate but the evidence is not conclusive.
- B. The first **clear** case of homosexuality & God's attitude toward it is reflected in Gen. 19:1-13.

READ GENESIS 19:1-13.

- C. It was from this incident that the term "sodomy" became used to describe homosexual practices.

III. UNDER MOSES' LAW THE PRACTICE OF HOMOSEXUALITY WAS AN ABOMINATION BEFORE GOD, & CARRIED THE DEATH PENALTY.

Lev 18:22, You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

Lev 20:13, If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.

A. The word "abomination" simply means that God **hates** that practice.

B. Let it also be noted that God **likewise** hates the heterosexual sin of **adultery**.....  
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Lev 20:10, The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.

C. It was not until later generations when respect for God had waned & their worship had been mixed with idolatry that we find a degree of toleration of the sin of sodomy in Israel, & every reform movement sought to eliminate it & get back to God's original design.

1 Kings 14:23-24, For they also built them high places, & images, & groves, on every high hill, & under every green tree. And there were also sodomites in the land: & they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. (KJV)

1 Kings 15:11-12, And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did David his father. And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. (KJV)

IV. THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES SHOW THAT THE BASIC VALUES SET FORTH IN EARLIER TIMES ARE STILL VALID.

A. The practice of homosexuality is a clear violation of New Testament principles.

Rom 1:24-27, Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

Jude 7, Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them... having given themselves over to sexual immorality & gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

2 Peter 2:6-7, [God,] turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked.....  
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1 Cor 6:9-10, Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **homosexuals**, nor **sodomites**, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

B. Valid marriages are still between one man & one woman.

Matt 19:4-5, And He answered & said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male & female,' & said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father & mother & be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

V. HOMOSEXUALS CAN CHANGE. Though many psychologists & psychiatrists disagree, homosexuals can change.

1 Cor 6:9-11, Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Cor 10:13, No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

NOTE: As brother James Bales said in the Arkansas Democrat (newspaper), homosexuals "are sinners – not when they are tempted but when they give way to temptation."

VI. HOMOSEXUAL "RIGHTS."

A. Homosexuals have a right to know that the homosexual lifestyle is not right in the eyes of God & that no amount of human reasoning or legislation can make it right.

B. Homosexuals have a right to hear the gospel, believe the gospel, repent of their sins & obey the gospel. They have the same right as all us other sinners to seek forgiveness by bringing their lives into compliance with God's will.

- C. Homosexuals have a right to expect Christians to behave as Christians toward them.
- D. And Christians have a duty to seek the salvation of the souls of homosexuals and everyone else by taking the gospel into all the world & preaching it to every creature, Mark 16:15-16.