

What Does the Word of God Say About Homosexuality?

A Biblical Thesis Statement from The Living Truth Fellowship

On June 26, 2015, the United States Supreme Court, by a vote of 5-4, issued a disappointing decision that now imposes homosexual marriage on all 50 states. The Court surprisingly rejected the societal understanding of marriage that goes back to the dawn of civilization. The decision of five unelected judges trampled the democratic process by overturning the will of more than 60 percent of Americans who had voted on the issue. It also creates a new federal "constitutional right" in an area where our founding Constitution is silent.

Our concern is that this decision will fan the flames of government hostility, not only against individuals who oppose homosexuality, but also against Christian ministries. Our biblical beliefs and convictions prevent us from ever officiating at, participating in, or celebrating same-sex unions. In recent months we have watched this hostility operate against wedding vendors, military chaplains, and others, and we anticipate that this decision will open the door to an unwelcome escalation of this problem. Such persecution of Christians might extend to sermons opposing homosexuality being labeled as "hate speech," and churches losing their tax-exempt status as a result.

Most Americans want to live in a tolerant nation, and they are willing, *as we are,* to let people choose their own sexual preferences. But too many homosexual activists want the government to coerce the rest of us to celebrate their relationship. All Americans should remain free to believe and act according to their beliefs about marriage without fear of government penalty. Protecting religious liberty and the rights of conscience does not encroach upon anyone's sexual freedoms.

The fact that things in our nation could have come to this is symptomatic of the degree to which the majority of Americans have chosen to ignore the Word and the ways of God, our loving Creator, and embrace idolatry in one form or another. There are many other symptoms of people's disregard for God's Truth, but both Scripture and history show that the rise of homosexuality within a culture is pivotal in regard to its degradation (see Enclosed Links).

Today's "progressive," post-modern society trumpets the devastating lie that there is no such thing as absolute truth. Of course, that in itself is an absolute statement, but that doesn't seem to matter to those who promote it. Today's prevailing "wisdom" says that truth is relative, that each person has his own truth, and that everyone's beliefs have



equal validity. This delusion allows people to live in complete denial of *reality*, which is, in fact, the definition of the biblical Greek word for "truth." It also blurs any distinction between right and wrong, and eventually leads people into despair.

As we will see in the epistle to the Romans, the Word of God speaks about this very attitude with crystal clarity: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities —his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools..."

In this thesis, we are compelled to weigh in with what we believe is the correct biblical perspective. In examining this critical issue, here is the bottom line question we must answer: Is there an absolute standard for Truth, and if so, does it address the topic of homosexuality?

The Living Truth Fellowship (TLTF) is dedicated to teaching people the keys inherent in the written Word of God, His "Instruction Manual" for life, so that they can understand the Author's originally intended message and apply it daily. No other book on earth makes the claims that the Bible does and then proceeds to *prove* them to anyone who chooses to act accordingly. Therefore, the unwritten clause either preceding or following each point we make herein is, "**IF GOD'S WORD IS TRUE...**" It all comes down to that "**IF...**"

IF Scripture is what it claims to be, and **IF** we take its words according to standard linguistic principles and in context, and **IF** those words clearly say that homosexual behavior is a choice that is both ungodly and destructive to people, then the Christian thing to do is love our homosexual friends (and they *can* be our friends) enough to share with them God's truth in order to help them.

What Does The Word of God Say About Homosexuality?

There are a number of clear sections of Scripture that either directly or indirectly address this topic, and they are set forth herein: eight from the "Old Testament" (the Hebrew Scriptures) and six from the "New Testament" (the Christian Scriptures). We have read homosexual theology that twists these verses in a vain attempt to defend the practice of homosexuality, but all such attempts to do so render the principles of language, and biblical context, meaningless.

Let us begin at the beginning–Genesis–where God clearly defined marriage when He



created the first male (husband) and female (wife).

Genesis 2:18-24 (NIV)

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." **19** Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. **20** So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. **21** So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. **22 Then the Lord God made a woman** from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. **23** The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman' [Hebrew *ishah=*"my other self"] for she was taken out of man." **24** That is why **a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.**

During his earthly ministry as the Messiah to Israel and the Redeemer of mankind, Jesus Christ affirmed this original God-given truth about marriage:

Matthew 19:4-6 (NIV)

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning **the Creator 'made them male** and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

The Hebrew Scriptures Speak

As for the following verses from the Hebrew Scriptures, remember that **the theme of the "Old Testament" is God choosing, and then preserving, a bloodline from which the Redeemer/Messiah would come.** The everlasting destiny of mankind was riding on getting The Baby Jesus born so that he, as the "Last Adam," could reverse the curse laid on mankind by the first Adam. All the laws our loving God gave to Israel were to that end. He saw that if He allowed homosexuality among His people, it would infect and ruin the Israelites as it has shredded the fabric of each society where it has run rampant, e.g., Greece and Rome, where even pederasty was common.

Genesis 19:1-11 (NIV)

The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. **2** "My lords," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can



wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning." "No," they answered, "we will spend the night in the square." 3 But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate. 4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom-both young and old-surrounded the house. 5 They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them." 6 Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him 7 and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing. 8 Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof." 9 "Get out of our way," they replied. "This fellow came here as a foreigner, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them." They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door. **10** But the men [the angels sent by God] inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. 11 Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door.

It is very plain from this record that unmitigated homosexual behavior had infected the entire city of Sodom, and God had to respond to it. Shortly thereafter, because He could not find any righteous people there, He destroyed the city and its inhabitants. In Ezekiel He reveals why He did so.

Ezekiel 16:49-50 (NKJ)

49 Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. **50** And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw *fit*.

The following verses show *how serious God was* about preserving the bloodline of the Messiah via Israel, and thus how opposed He was to homosexuality, which He knew would ruin His chosen people. In the Christian Scriptures addressed to us today, homosexual behavior is not a capital crime, only an egregious sin.

Leviticus 18:22 (ESV)

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

Leviticus 20:13 (ESV)

If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. It is significant that the Hebrew word for "abomination" means "a thing to be abhorred."



E.W. Bullinger's notes in *The Companion Bible* say that it is also "Jehovah's name for an idol, which He detests." In the etymology of the corresponding Greek word translated "abomination" in the "New Testament," it has the connotation of turning away in disgust, as from the smell of one's vomit.

Judges 19:16-24 (NIV)

16 That evening an old man from the hill country of Ephraim, who was living in Gibeah (the inhabitants of the place were Benjamites), came in from his work in the fields. 17 When he looked and saw the traveler in the city square, the old man asked, "Where are you going? Where did you come from?" 18 He answered, "We are on our way from Bethlehem in Judah to a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim where I live. I have been to Bethlehem in Judah and now I am going to the house of the Lord.[a] No one has taken me in for the night. 19 We have both straw and fodder for our donkeys and bread and wine for ourselves your servants-me, the woman and the young man with us. We don't need anything." 20 "You are welcome at my house," the old man said. "Let me supply whatever you need. Only don't spend the night in the square." 21 So he took him into his house and fed his donkeys. After they had washed their feet, they had something to eat and drink. 22 While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they shouted to the old man who owned the house, "Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him." 23 The owner of the house went outside and said to them. "No. my friends, don't be so vile. Since this man is my guest, don't do this outrageous thing. 24 Look, here is my virgin daughter, and his concubine. I will bring them out to you now, and you can use them and do to them whatever you wish. But as for this man, don't do such an outrageous thing."

In contrast to God's gorgeous design for marriage and sex, He calls homosexual behavior "vile," "wicked," and "outrageous." The following verses show how He told His people to deal with such perversion.

1 Kings 14:24 (KJV)

And there were also **sodomites** in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord cast out before the children of Israel.

1 Kings 15:12 (KJV)

And he took away the **sodomites** out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.

2 Kings 23:7 (NLT)

He also tore down the living quarters of the male and female shrine prostitutes that were inside the Temple of the LORD, where the women wove coverings for the Asherah



pole [a phallic symbol].

The Christian Scriptures Speak

Here are the verses from the Scripture addressed to people today, which are also remarkably plain.

Romans 1:18-32 (NIV)

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, **19** since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine naturehave been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-who is forever praised. Amen. 26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

One reason God calls homosexuality "unnatural" is because He made it very clear how the physical bodies of a man and a woman beautifully fit together sexually. For the record, it is impossible for two men or two women to become "one flesh." As we say on our website in the "50 FAQ" section in regard to this issue, one can look at this practically, from a *plumbing* standpoint. No plumber in his right mind would try to put together two "male" parts or two "female" parts, because that would result in faulty



plumbing, to say the least.

As Romans 1 states, nothing about two women touching one another in a sexual way is natural. Ditto for two men. Beyond that, the Creator intentionally made men and women to be *very different* physically, emotionally, intellectually, and intuitively. That is because He intended them to complement one another and fit together to become "one," not just physically, but also in their complete beings.

In His Word, God defines Himself as having *both male and female* qualities. A primary reason why He designed men and women differently is so that together, as **father and mother**, they can each manifest the characteristics of God differently and thus present a complete picture of His heart to their precious children, whom they are to raise in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Any child raised by two same-sex parents is thus deprived of such godly parenting.

Here are the other verses in the Christian Scriptures that address homosexuality:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (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. **11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Scripture shows that the "new birth," whereby one becomes "born again of incorruptible seed" (1 Pet. 1:23), gives a Christian *guaranteed salvation*, no matter his behavior after he is saved from sin and death by his belief in Jesus Christ as Lord. Thus the above verses are not referring to Christians, but to unbelievers, and verse 11 makes that distinction clear.

And in the revelation that the risen Lord Jesus gave the Apostle Paul about the union of Himself (the Head) and the Church (his Body), he again affirmed God's original design.

Ephesians 5:31-32 (NIV)

31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and **the two will become one flesh**." 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

In the following verses, we again see homosexuality listed among other serious sins.



1 Timothy 1:8-10 (ESV)

Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 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, the sexually immoral, **men who practice homosexuality**, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is **contrary to sound doctrine**.

Jude 7 (REV)

Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, in the same way as those *angels*, **having indulged in sexual immorality and gone after unnatural flesh**, are set forward as an example, suffering the punishment of the fire *of the* Age *to come*.

God, the Creator, tells us that **all sex outside the canopy of commitment in** *marriage is sin*, because He knows it is harmful to both parties. This certainly includes heterosexual immorality, of which there is plenty. The following verses elaborate upon why that is so.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (RSV)

18 Shun immorality. **Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body**. **19** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; **20** you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

However, biblically speaking, homosexuality is unique among sexual sins. One reason is because it, like no other, will more quickly shred the very fabric of a society. Furthermore, consider how vigorously and vociferously the Devil promotes it compared to other sins. Contemporarily speaking, there is no "Association of Adulterers" lobbying Congress to change the laws or pushing for adultery to be taught in schools or trying to silence the voices of those speaking out against it.

Again, *the bottom line is whether the Word of God is what it claims to be*, and whether it contains linguistic and hermeneutical principles by which we can ascertain the Author's originally intended meaning. We assert that it is, that it does, and that in regard to this critical topic, God makes Himself very clear. Our heart is to glorify Him and to stand approved before Him rather than before men.

How Should Christians Relate To Homosexuals?

As followers of Jesus Christ, our commitment to the Word of God that he loved and proclaimed requires us to meet the Homosexual Agenda's aggression with a bold



proclamation of the Truth of God's Word. **IF** God is the Author of Life, and wants people to live it as He designed it so as to get the most out of it, then we must set forth what He says about this topic. Down the road, that may well lead to our being severely persecuted, but so be it. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the brave German Christian leader who stood against the Nazis until they executed him in 1945, once said: *"Not to speak is to speak; not to stand*." How very true. And we must *speak the truth in love*.

IF THE WORD OF GOD IS TRUE, and there is an ongoing spiritual battle between God and the Devil, those at the core of the militant homosexual movement have a demonically-inspired agenda that goes far beyond, "Just let us alone so we can do our thing." Their goal is to recruit and indoctrinate as many people as possible, and their plan of teaching young school children that homosexuality is normal is already in place in many schools. They want to impose their lifestyle upon the rest of us, and completely squelch all who oppose it.

Homosexuals have a lot to say about how Christians should love, tolerate, accept, and embrace them and their perverted behavior. But do they love, tolerate, and accept those who believe that their lifestyle is sinful? Absolutely not, and in fact they are most intolerant of anyone who disagrees with them. They constantly cry for "Tolerance," but to them that is a very one-sided concept. They want to practice all manner of sexual aberrance while completely silencing any opposition to it whatsoever.

Without the spiritual perspective provided by the Word of God, one cannot understand the spiritual war that is raging between God and Satan. A 2015 article from *Crisis Magazine* titled "Same-sex 'Marriage' and the Persecution of Christians in Canada" illustrates exactly how militant homosexuals relentlessly advance their agenda. As with all forms of evil, if given a millimeter, they will take a light year.

Canada legalized same-sex "marriage" in 2005, the fourth country in the world to do so. During the rushed public debate that preceded legalization, the Christian and traditional understanding of marriage as the union of a man and a woman had strong support. Polls showed a deep split among Canadians, and *the majority (52 percent) was actually against legalization at the time that it occurred*.

Opponents of same-sex "marriage" were given all kinds of assurances. The preamble to the Civil Marriage Act states that "everyone has the freedom of conscience and religion," "nothing in this Act affects the guarantee of freedom of conscience and religion and, in particular, the freedom of members of religious groups to hold and declare their religious beliefs," and "it is not against the public interest to hold and publicly express diverse views on marriage."



But how quickly things change. Since the watershed moment of legalization, Canadian social norms have shifted rapidly, and what was once considered fringe or debatable has become the new normal.

Today, different opinions on "gender identity" and same-sex "marriage" are no longer tolerated. Our society is sweeping away respect for religious faiths that do not accept and celebrate same-sex "marriage," and the Civil Marriage Act's assurances seem merely farcical. It is not premature to speak of open discrimination against <u>Christians in Canada</u>.

It is unsettling to realize that in the wake of our Supreme Court's decision, there are already some groups calling for a legalization of polygamy, and even bestiality. If two men or two women can marry, why not three or more, and why can't a man marry his St. Bernard?

It is *imperative* that we distinguish between how we relate to an *individual homosexual* and how we relate to the whole "LGBT" agenda that is designed to force an acceptance of that lifestyle on our society, as well as the vicious persecution of anyone who says it is ungodly.

Jesus Christ vividly revealed to us **THE GOD WHO** *IS* **LOVE**. Titus 1:2 states that "God CANNOT lie." **Neither can He say or do anything that is not TOTALLY LOVING.** God's love for all people is beyond description, and therefore He does not condone behavior that He, the Creator of mankind, has clearly defined as extremely harmful to those He loves.

Nonetheless, we are *not* to treat homosexuals the way some Christians do—screaming hateful things at them, cursing them, or abusing them in any way. The Bible does not justify violence, torture, etc. God does not hate homosexuals; He loves them because *He is love*. We will not rail on those who choose to be homosexuals, but we will oppose their agenda to infringe upon our right to believe differently, and to say so.

Are we to love and "accept" a Christian homosexual as our brother in Christ? **Yes!** Are we to condone his sinful behavior if he is acting out? No. *What would Jesus do?* As the flawless image of God's heart, Jesus would love the person and dialogue with him/her in order to help them become whole. Jesus Christ loved sinners so genuinely that some were willing to listen to his message. It's like the old adage: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."



Today there are many Christian men and women who think that they were born "homosexual," but who do not *practice* homosexual behavior because they see that the Word of God plainly says it is a sin against God and man. We applaud that decision, and we encourage such brethren not to identify themselves by their desires but by what the Word of God says as to who they are in Christ. The first step to deliverance may well be changing their confession (Prov. 18:21; 23:7) and putting to death that aspect of the sin nature.

It is up to us as members of the Body of Christ to love these brethren and give them the opportunity to be a part of our fellowships. And we are to point them to our Savior as the only one who can heal their hearts. It is not a sin to feel an attraction to someone of the same sex, but it is a sin to act upon that desire.

Today, those aggressively promoting the Homosexual Agenda proclaim that homosexuality is not a choice, asserting that people are born that way. Logically, **God cannot call something a "sin" if one cannot help it.** For example, it can't be a sin to be black or white, tall or short. Even if it were to be proven (which it has not been, conclusively) that some people have a genetic proclivity to homosexuality, it would most likely be a result of Satan's genetic mutation, something we see in Scripture that he knows how to do. And even if one thinks he is born as a homosexual, he can still read the Word of God and "Just say no" to practicing it. The Lord Jesus will judge people according to their choices, and IF the Word is right, homosexual behavior is a sinful choice, even if one feels he was born with that predilection.

In Conclusion

The only true "Supreme Court" is the Lord Jesus Christ, who will one day righteously judge every human being who has ever lived. Until then, we Christians are directed to make our judgments according to the written Word of God, which contains "all things that pertain to life and godliness."

Ultimately, however, no earthly court can change the truth that marriage is, and always has been, between a man and a woman. Regardless of our court's decision, *The Living Truth Fellowship* will continue to adhere to the biblical definition of marriage: one man and one woman committed for life. The marriages that TLTF ministers perform are, in essence, Christian worship services celebrating a man and a woman joining their hearts together according to God's design.

No amount of verbal gymnastics can change the plain meaning of what God says about homosexuality. Neither can anyone re-write history to change the fact that rampant homosexuality ruins a culture. That is one reason why the Lord Jesus chose to inspire



Paul to use it as the benchmark example of sin in Romans 1. We Christians are to love the sinner, but hate the sin. It's not about condemning the person, but the sin, which clearly is unnatural, and yes, an "abomination" to God.

Sadly, as noted conservative columnist George Will has observed: "The right of free speech has been supplanted by the right not to be offended or even challenged." It is not "bigotry" or "intolerance" to view homosexuality as God Almighty does. It all comes down to the big "IF." IF there is a God, and IF He created mankind, and IF He defined marriage via the first couple, and IF His Word is what He says it is, then homosexuality is an extremely harmful sin. And we Christians have both the right, and the duty, to say so for the benefit of others.

In the days to come, we must remember to season our words with salt. We are to be lights in these dark times. It is not a time to be combative and caustic. Now, more than ever, we must emulate our Lord Jesus Christ. We must continue to show his loving kindness as we talk with our neighbors and friends who see this issue differently. We praise God for the opportunity to help those who desire deliverance from homosexuality to find wholeness in the Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless you. The Eldership of The Living Truth Fellowship

Below are additional links to some very enlightening information:

- Why I No Longer Want To Be Gay
- Countering the Confusion: Five Truths About Homosexuality
- Gay is Not the New Black
- Gay Marriage and Homosexuality Were Part of the Landscape in Ancient <u>Rome</u>
- A Global Historical Survey: Does Accepting Homosexuality Lead to <u>Civilizational Ruin?</u>
- The Myth of the Gay Holocaust: Lessons from the Nazi Experiment
- Gay Marriage Still Doesn't Exist, No Matter What The Supreme Court Says
- What Now? Your Church and Same Sex Marriage