

HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE BIBLE

Introduction

BIBLICAL FRAMEWORK

Genesis 1:26-27 and 2:18-25 as the framework

Note significance of word complement
Creational framework

Sodom and Gomorrah

- Know refers to sexual relations in this context: Gen 19:8; cf. Judg 19:22, 25
- Some say the sin is lack of hospitality.
- Ezek 16:49-50: abomination suggests that lack of social justice is not the only theme (cf. Ezek 18:10-13—Lev 20:13).

“Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it” (Eze 16:49-50 ESV).

“just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire” (Jud 1:7 ESV).

Leviticus 18:22; 20:13

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

Leviticus 18:22 καὶ μετὰ ἄρσενος οὐ κοιμηθήσῃ κοίτην γυναικός βδέλυγμα γάρ ἐστίν

Lev 20:13, “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.”

Leviticus 20:13 καὶ ὃς ἂν κοιμηθῇ μετὰ ἄρσενος κοίτην γυναικός βδέλυγμα ἐποίησαν ἀμφότεροι θανατούσθωσαν ἕνοχοί εἰσιν

- Note context—only Lev 18:19 is a question mark today.
- Revulsion in term abomination—usually reserved for morally wrong act, not ritual uncleanness
 - Worshiping other gods (Deut 7:25-26)
 - Practicing sorcery, divination, and necromancy (Deut 18:9-12)
 - Adultery (Ezek 18:6)
 - Incest (Ezek 22:10-11)
 - Cross-dressing (Deut 22:5)
 - Bringing a prostitute’s fee into the temple (Deut 23:18)

- Sex during menstruation (Ezek 18:6, 22:10)
- Death penalty for act
 - No evidence for same sex cultic prostitution
 - Nor because one man is degraded or abused or feminized since both are equally guilty

Same Sex Intercourse in Second Temple Judaism: universally criticized

Jesus and Homosexuality

- Didn't address the issue directly
- Highly unlikely he would adopt a different stance from universal Jewish view of his day!
 - Cf. his view of Gen 1:27 and 2:24 in Matt 19.
 - Inclusion of male and female from Gen. 1:27 significant. He could have just cited Gen. 2:24.
 - Jesus' strict ethic: Matt 5:17-20: came to fulfill the law
 - His view of lust: Matt 5:27ff
 - Cf. "sexual sin" *porneiai* in Mark 7:21ff
 - Jesus didn't lower moral standards, but offered forgiveness and a new start to sinners
 - But also expected transformation of life: Go and sin no more (John 8:11); tax collectors did not continue in old ways.

1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Tim 1:10

1 Corinthians 6:9 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,

1 Corinthians 6:9 Ἡ οὐκ οἶδατε ὅτι ἄδικοι θεοῦ βασιλείαν οὐ κληρονομήσουσιν; μὴ πλανᾶσθε· οὔτε πόρνοι οὔτε εἰδωλόατραι οὔτε μοιχοὶ οὔτε μαλακοὶ οὔτε ἀρσενοκοῖται

1 Timothy 1:10 for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers-- and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine

1 Timothy 1:10 πόρνοις ἀρσενοκοίταις ἀνδραποδισταῖς ψεύσταις ἐπιόρκοις, καὶ εἴ τι ἕτερον τῆ ὑγιαίνουσα διδασκαλία ἀντίκειται

Arsenokoitai Males who take other males to bed; the object is the first word "male"

- First use of term in Greek literature.
- Derived from Lev 18:22 and 20:13

Malakoi (only in 1 Cor 6:9)

- Effeminate males who play the sexual role of females

- The passive partner sexually

Other Views of Arsenokoitai

- Can't be limited to exploitative or hired male sexual intercourse. Paul could have used *paiderastēs* if he wanted to limit his critique to this technical matter.

Romans 1:26-27

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 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.

Contrary to what God intended in creating men and women, not referring to the psychological nature of men and women.

OBJECTIONS TO THOSE WHO PROHIBIT HOMOSEXUALITY

The Bible only condemns pederasty, for this was the form of homosexual known in GR world, and so scripture doesn't speak against loving and mutual homosexual relations.

Bible doesn't condemn those with same sex orientation, but heterosexuals who engage in same-sex behavior because they have excessive passion and are over-sexed

We are all sinners anyway

Final Application