

CLEAR THE AIR: Burning Issues Confronting Christians Today

Sermon #8: A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

When it comes to handling this sensitive issue, there are two extremes we must avoid. Some churches reject any notion of ministry to homosexuals and choose to rebuff them with disdain. On the other hand, some churches embrace and accept them into unquestioned fellowship. Both approaches are wrong. The former lacks Christlike love; the latter biblical discernment.

Our goal is to provide Christians with biblically accurate and effective ministry points for helping those beset with homosexual desires, and to adopt an attitude and perspective based on the Word of God rather than on what culture or popular opinion says:

1. THE REALITY AND SERIOUSNESS OF ALL SINS: Those practicing the sins listed here intentionally, face the eternal wrath of God – the obvious meaning of “not inherit the kingdom of God” (vv. 9-10).

- The 10 sins listed are **representative**, not exhaustive: the sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexual offenders, thieves, the greedy, drunkards, slanderers, swindlers.

Translation possibilities:

“male prostitutes” = *malakos* = passive homosexual partners

“homosexual offenders” = *arsenokoites* = one who assumes the dominant role in same-sex activity

Let's not be deceived: Homosexuality is a grave sin but not the worst of all sins!

2. OUR RELIEF AND DELIVERANCE FROM OUR SIN: (v. 11)

- All of us without exception, once faced the wrath of God. Because some Christians in his audience used to practice these representative sins, Paul makes them glorious examples for us of God's redeeming grace through Jesus Christ.

- There are few sweeter words in scripture for former “gross sinners” than these: “That is what some of you were. But you were washed . . . sanctified . . . justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ”! (1 Corinthians 6:11).

All sins break the heart of God, not just homosexuality. All sins are worthy of the wrath of God, not just homosexuality. But in His mercy God has provided a way of redemption through Jesus Christ.

3. A RIGHT PERSPECTIVE ON ALL SEXUAL SIN, INCLUDING HOMOSEXUALITY: (vv. 12-20)

- a) The key principle: The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord (vv. 12-14).
- b) The implications of this principle: sexual immorality, including homosexuality, causes a three-fold destructive effect :
 - 1) It damages another person – sexual union produces a mysterious bond that medical science is just beginning to understand (vv. 15-16).
 - 2) It destroys oneself (v. 18).
 - 3) It dishonors God (17, 19-20).

Final Thoughts:

By God’s grace we will never compromise the standards of scripture and will never water down the grievousness of sin. By the same grace, we pray that as a church and as individuals, we will be known for our love for each other and the lost – and that includes those struggling with homosexuality.

We cannot condemn people into following Christ, but we can love them for Christ until they realize His love for them despite their bondage to sin.

Some say “love the sinner but hate the sin”. We say – you love the person, not what’s destroying them; and the only thing we should hate is our own sin.