

OVERCOMING THE SPIRIT OF GENDER IDENTITY CRISIS
The Path to Righteousness



OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION MINISTRY
“Changing a Nation for the Glory of God”

Outreach International Foundation Ministry
P.O. Box 490933 * Atlanta GA 30349
outreach.int.foundation@gmail.com
www.outreachintfound.com

What The Bible Say About Homosexuality:

A. *Old Testament*

Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom--both young and old--surrounded the house. 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' (Gen. 19:4--5).

Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable (Lev. 18:22).

If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads (Lev. 20:13).

B. *New Testament*

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. . . . 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. . . . Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. . . . Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion (Ro. 1:18--19, 21, 24, 26-- 27).

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders . . . will inherit the kingdom of God (I Cor. 6:9-- 10).

1. Is homosexuality an orientation God intended for some people, or is it a perversion of normal sexuality?

If God had intended homosexuality as a viable sexual orientation for some people, He wouldn't have condemned it as an abomination. Homosexuality is never mentioned in Scripture in anything but negative terms, and there is nothing in the Bible even hinting at commendation or instruction for homosexual relationships. Some gay theology attempts to make David and Jonathan's relationship (1 Sam. 18--20) a homosexual one. Their deep friendship, however, was not sexual, but one of godly emotional intimacy that truly glorified God.

God's plan is holy heterosexuality: "In the beginning the Creator made them male and female. For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh" (Matt. 19:4).

The importance of the created order of male and female in union with each other is a reflection of how the marriage relationship is an illustration of the relationship between Yahweh and His people, between Christ and the Church. The union of two utterly different people (male/female) is an earthbound illustration of the mystery of the union between the amazingly "otherness" of Christ and His bride. A male/male or female/female union cannot reflect the "unity in otherness" that marks either the earthly or heavenly marriage.

A. *Spiritual*

1. Homosexuality is a manifestation of the sin nature that all people share.

At the fall of man (Gen. 3), God's perfect creation was spoiled, and sin spoiled and warped us--physically, emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, and sexually.

In those who choose to develop homosexual desires (for example, heterosexuals who want to expand their sexual choices), we see the effect of the sin nature as people choose sexual immorality and perversion over God's call to holiness. In those who never chose a homosexual orientation, we see the effects of others' sin inflicted on emotionally needy children.

2. God's plan is heterosexuality: one man-one woman, as seen in Genesis 2. Anything else is an attempt to find sexual and emotional expression in ways God never intended, and in fact condemns (Lev. 20:13).
3. The consequences of sexual sin are so serious that Paul puts that kind of sin in a separate category (1 Cor. 6:13--20).

One of the consequences of homosexual activity is its addictive nature. Those caught in it find it *extremely* difficult to extricate themselves from the lifestyle.

4. Two extremes that are seen in the church

Proponents of homosexuality as a viable lifestyle attempt to explain away the biblical condemnation of homosexual sin.

One gay minister wrote, "Homosexuality is a holy gift of human loving." That's a lie from the pit of Hell. A deception that has corrupt this world.

1. *Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13*

It is argued that continuing to uphold the prohibition against sexual acts between men is anachronistic, since so much else of the book of Leviticus is no longer observed, such as the dietary restrictions. However, the civil and religious laws we no longer keep were fulfilled in the coming of Christ; but the moral laws, such as the Ten Commandments, are reaffirmed in the New Testament. Prohibitions against homosexual practices are reiterated several times in the Epistles.

2. *Genesis 19:4--11*

The Sodom story is dismissed as a profound display of inhospitality in the form of attempted homosexual rape. Other passages that refer to Sodom and Gomorrah (Ezek. 16:49; Isa. 1:9--17; 3:9--15; Jer. 23:14) describe their sins as arrogance, adultery, lies, insincere religious practices, political corruption, oppression of the poor, and neglect of the fatherless and widows. Homosexuality is not mentioned. The great sin of Sodom, so the argument goes, was callous inhospitality. However, although all those sins did indeed indict Sodom and Gomorrah, Jude 7 clearly includes the sexual immorality and perversion that the Genesis account emphasizes.

3. *Romans 1:26--32*

Paul viewed homosexual acts as unnatural. But today's "scientific" knowledge teaches us that what is unnatural is for the gay man or lesbian to defy his/her own "nature" by turning away from homosexuality. Furthermore (the argument goes), this passage addresses the person who turns from natural heterosexual relations to unnatural homosexual relations--not the homosexual, who does not choose to be homosexual just to defy God. Additionally, many argue that Paul's writings are no longer relevant, since he appeared to condone slavery and other socially unacceptable practices, such as restrictions on women in the churches.

This question comes down to whether Paul's writings were merely the musings of a mere mortal who lived a terribly long time ago or the inspired word of God. Regardless of whether we agree with the teachings, Peter calls Paul's writings "Scripture," and God's standards are the only ones that count.

4. *First Corinthians 6:9--10 and 1 Timothy 1:10*

Some argue that the word *homosexuals* (also translated "perverts") in these passages shouldn't be translated as such, since scholars don't know what the words mean (supposedly, they have something to do with prostitution). However, the Greek word *arsenokoites* clearly means those who go to bed with males (from *arsen* [male], and *koite* [a couch]; going to bed with someone).

a. *The other extreme claims that homosexuality is one of the "unforgivable sins."*

There is very little, if any, freedom for people struggling with homosexual sin to find compassion in the church.

We must remember that there is no hierarchy of sin: it is all equally repulsive to God. He hates it. And we must remember that every one of us is a sinner; Christians are just as undeserving of salvation as anyone else.

It is helpful to put homosexuality in the same category as other sexual sins. They all originate in the sin nature, fueled by temptation, moving to lust, and then to action.

We must also extend the good news of Christ's forgiveness to all those who seek it. No sin--including homosexuality--is greater than the power of His blood.

Biblical Principles to Recovery:

Galatians 3:13-14. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14. that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Redemption through Christ:

No matter where you have been or where you are now, God can turn around everything and give you a fresh, new beginning. Whereas the lust of your flesh for homosexual activities or desires, know that your partnership with Christ will make you stronger to withstand the temptation and see you through to a full recovery.

The Hebrew Word for redeemed is **Padah** a root to sever, to redeem by paying a price, ransom, set free, deliver from danger, be released, achieving the transfer of ownership from one to another through payment.

We see specifically that the curse of the law was many folds, and included disease of every kind, financial ruin, and destruction of your family, lack of peace or mental illness. We can see clearly that the curse of the law included every disease known. When we understand this, we won't be confused where the evil is coming from, and it becomes easier for us to receive God's blessings. vs. 14 says, that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

We have been redeemed from the curse of the law, yet we must also realize that we have been redeemed out of something, into something. It doesn't just end with us being redeemed from the curse, but we have been redeemed from the curse that, or we might say so that we might receive. Receive what,

receive the Holy Spirit. Redemption is not just so we can go to heaven someday, although that is certainly true, however, God wants us to have a future with hope while we're here on this earth.

The blessing of Abraham provided healing in the Old Covenant, how much more in the New Covenant. Hebrews 8:6. But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. We're in a better Covenant with better promises because we are His children. God wants his children to be whole, healthy and prosperous, not maimed, sick, or bind by the spirit of homosexual. God is not the author of sickness and disease, Satan is. Do you remember what Jesus said in the gospel of Luke?

Luke 13:16 "So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound think of it for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

Jesus first pointed out that this woman is a daughter of Abraham, this is signifying, that she was a Covenant daughter of Abraham, that wasn't just a term of kind words, it meant something. Secondly he said Satan bound this woman, this was not from God. Satan bound her and Jesus set her free. That's the way it went all through the New Testament. Satan was going around binding people and Jesus did the loosing.

1 John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, not to give him a hand in destroying mankind. Satan is the destroyer, Jesus is the healer. John 10:10, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Acts 10:38. "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. According to Acts, the devil was the oppressor, and Jesus was doing good when He healed every manner of sickness of diseases. Know Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever. And know Christ has redeemed you from every curse of the law including the spirit of homosexual desires.

Preserving the Body of Christ:

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Christ wants a life fully given to him. This means you do more than give lip service to your faith. It means you commit your body to holy, righteous living.

Presenting your body to God can be the most freeing, gratifying, and joyful feeling in the world. You have a choice about how your body responds to situations. The decision to present your body as a living sacrifice means you close the door of the flesh. You close the door to homosexual activities and desires that is sin against God and the body. With the Holy Spirit's help, you can change harmful habits and yield all of your life, not just part of it, to the Master.

Stop a moment and think about the various parts of your body. Think about your eyes, hands, ears, stomach, sex organs, or tongue. In which of these do you feel you need the most help surrendering to God? Ask him to help you by making you aware of His

presence when you are tempted to use that part of your body in wrong living. Then ask him to give you victory over that temptation.

Your victory is not automatic. As long as you live in your body, you continually fight the good fight of faith. But God promises you victory. Let me explain in practical terms how to let Christ master your total personality and enable you to live in the Spirit.

How to live victoriously

1. Ask God, through the Holy Spirit's guidance, to help you to will to do the right thing.

"For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." (Philippians 2:13, NIV) God helps you to want to do his will and then gives you the ability to do it.

2. Open the door of the spirit to the Spirit of God by asking him to fill you. *"Be filled with the Spirit."* (Ephesians 5:18, NIV) Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your personality and to keep on filling you so he can guide you, teach you, and give you power to be a spiritual person.

3. Close the door of the flesh to Satan by confessing your sins and claiming Christ's crucifixion of the flesh. *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live; but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20, NIV)

4. Renew your mind by saturating it in the Word of God. *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing and perfect will."* (Romans 12:2, NIV) As you listen to God and his Word and obey him, your mind is renewed. You experience the mind of Christ helping you know and understand the will of God.

5. Allow the Holy Spirit to master your emotions by producing the fruit of the Spirit in you. *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."* (Galatians 5:22, 23, NIV) The fruit of the Spirit helps produce the right emotions in you.

6. Present your body to Christ as an instrument of righteousness. *"Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather ... offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness."* (Romans 6:12, 13, NIV) Your body is not evil in itself, only the flesh, or your sinful nature, is evil. Present your body and all of its members to God.

7. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. As you yield yourself to God fully, the Holy Spirit helps you to master your mind, will, emotions, body, and soul through the power of Christ. Now, take a moment to evaluate your own life.

8. Fellowship with other believers in Christ. Fellowship, gathering together to worship God is an important part of a Christian's life. It is a time to "be full of joy" when we join together. It is also a time for us to learn from each other, to learn to deal with one another

as Christians, and problem solve together. He instructs us to not fail to assemble together and encourage and support one another.

- Are you a natural person whose spirit is dead? Do your bodily senses and your natural desires control you?
- Are you a worldly Christian who has allowed Christ to enter your life but is still being mastered by the desires of the flesh? Is the big “I” still in control?
- Are you a spiritual Christian who has been crucified with Christ and is being controlled by the Holy Spirit?

Spiritual Christians are not perfect, but daily they crucify the flesh and consciously allow the Holy Spirit to fill them. When tempted, they invite Christ to fill their lives and they close the door of the flesh. When they sin, they ask for God’s forgiveness and strength to help them overcome the next temptation. They continually seek to offer themselves -- mentally, emotionally, and physically -- to Christ to be used for his purposes.

Only through the power of the Holy Spirit can this occur, and only when he is invited to come in his awesome presence and power.