

Homosexuality

1. Genesis 1 and 2 — What does the creation of man, woman and marriage teach us about homosexuality?



1. The creation of woman shows she is the only possible marital and sexual complement for a man.

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. Genesis 2:21 (ESV)

Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Genesis 2:23 (ESV)

2. Only two people of the opposite gender can fulfill the procreative purpose of marriage.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:28 (ESV)

Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. Malachi 2:15 (ESV)

3. Jesus and Paul claim Genesis doesn't just make heterosexual marriage normal, it makes it normative.

He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” Matthew 19:4–6 (ESV)

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Ephesians 5:31–33 (ESV)

2. Genesis 19 — Why were Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed?

1. Sodom was guilty of social injustices and inhospitality.

The men of Sodom intend to inflict dramatic punishment on Lot's guests in order to ensure that their city never has to tolerate the presence of foreigners within its walls.... the particular behavior that is judged so negatively in the passage turns out to be homosexual gang rape used as a weapon against foreigners!... this negative judgment against gang rape has no implications at all for the loving, covenanted partnerships and marriages. - Achtimeier

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. Ezekiel 16:49 (ESV)

2. Sodom was guilty of more than social injustices, and inhospitality. It was also guilty of sexual sin.

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. Ezekiel 16:49–50 (ESV)

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. Leviticus 18:22 (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. Leviticus 20:13 (ESV)

3. Jude 7 describes Sodom's sin as heterosexual sin and homosexual sin.

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. Jude 7 (ESV)

3. **Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13** — Why should we listen to **two little verses** in a forgotten Old Testament book?

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- *Leviticus 18:6-18* — A lengthy description on incest detailing which types of sexual relations are incestual.
- *Leviticus 18:19* — Touching a woman during her menstrual uncleanness is bad.
- *Leviticus 18:20* — Adultery is bad.
- *Leviticus 18:21* — Killing your children is bad.
- *Leviticus 18:22* — Homosexuality is bad.
- *Leviticus 18:23* — Bestiality is bad.

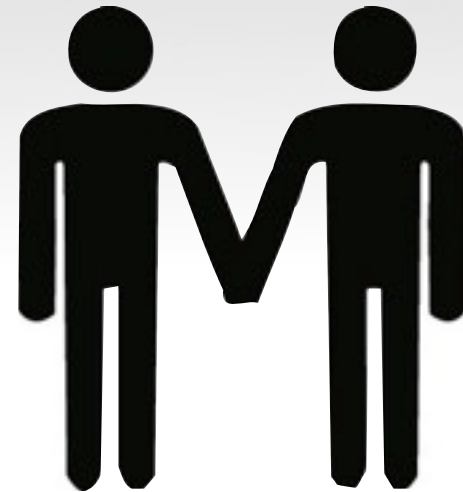
“The prohibitions in Leviticus were designed to prevent the Israelites from falling into very specific idolatrous activities practiced by the pagan peoples who had previously occupied the land... When the ancient Israelites heard references to males lying with other males, their thoughts would have turned to gang rape and similarly violent forms of sexual aggression on the one hand or to temple prostitution on the other.” - Achtimeier

1. **Leviticus is consistently quoted in the New Testament.**

- *Leviticus 19:18* - Love your neighbor as yourself.
- *1 Corinthians 5* quotes *Leviticus 18:8* on the sinfulness of incest.
- *1 Corinthians 6* quotes *Leviticus 18:22* on the sinfulness of homosexuality.

WHAT DOES THE
BIBLE ?
SAY ABOUT...

Homosexuality — Part 1



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2. Only one sin in the holiness code of Leviticus is called “an abomination” (Singular).

3. If we ignore Leviticus’ instruction on a woman’s menstrual period, shouldn’t we also disregard Leviticus’ instructions on homosexuality?

“You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness while she is in her menstrual uncleanness. Leviticus 18:19 (ESV)

- Leviticus 18 — A menstruating woman → sex with a neighbor’s wife → sex with another male → sex with an animal.
- Leviticus 20 — Sex with a neighbor’s wife → Sex with a family member → Sex with a family member of a younger generation → Sex with another man → Sex with more than one partner → Sex with an animal → Even worse!

“When a woman has a discharge, and the discharge in her body is blood, she shall be in her menstrual impurity for seven days, and whoever touches her shall be unclean until the evening. Leviticus 15:19 (ESV)

4. Romans 1 — Why is homosexuality horizontal evidence of vertical rebellion?

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. 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. Romans 1:21–27 (ESV)

“the Greco-Roman society that Paul inhabited had no concept of sexual orientation and no cultural spaces or institutions that could support egalitarian,

committed, same-sex relationships based on mutual love. Publicly prominent same-gender behaviors in New Testament times would have been violent or exploitative: military victors raped prisoners of war, and masters routinely took advantage of slaves of both genders as a demonstration of dominance over them.”

As a classicist, I have to say that when I read Plato’s Symposium, or when I read the accounts from the early Roman empire of the practice of homosexuality, then it seems to me they knew just as much about it as we do... they knew a great deal about what people today would regard as longer-term, reasonably stable relations between two people of the same gender. This is not a modern invention, it’s already there in Plato. — NT Wright

5. 1 Corinthians 6 and 1 Timothy 1 — Will practicing homosexuals, of any form, inherit the kingdom of God?

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 [oute malakoi oute arsenokoitai], nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (ESV)

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 [arsenokoitai], enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, 1 Timothy 1:9–10 (ESV)

“For our purposes, the most important thing is to recognize that these words refer to behaviors that do not look like a marriage relationship... It would make no sense, however, to take this fragment from Paul’s argument about our need to grow in faithfulness and use it to block committed gay people from entering into loving marriages...” — Achtimeier

Arsenokoitai — The men-bedders.

Malakoi — The effeminate ones.