

Jude 7 — Homosexuality And Hell

September 12, 2021

Good morning! If you are a visiting CrossWinds, it is great to have you. My name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors. Last weekend was Labor Day. A number of you were gone. While you were gone, we had a great Sunday continuing in our study of the book of Jude.

Last weekend, I taught on Jude 5-7. Unfortunately, I didn't get to verse 7. This weekend, I will cover that verse. To do that properly, and to get those of you who were gone up to speed with Jude, we need to begin with a little review of Jude and the verses we covered last week.

In the third verse of this letter, Jude told us why he wrote the letter. Spiritual terrorists had slipped into the church. They were people who looked like Christians. They claimed to be Christians, but once they were in the church, they used whatever position of influence and power they gained in the church to pull people away from Jesus.

This is why Jude says in verse 3 that we must contend for the faith once for all given to the saints. Spiritual terrorists slipping into the church and pulling people away from Jesus is not just something that happened in Jude's day. It is still happening today. Spiritual terrorists slip into churches, into denominations, into Christian organizations, and into Christian schools. Instead of anchoring themselves to the truth about Jesus, they try to pull people away from Jesus. They don't teach that Jesus is the only way to be made right with God, as the Bible tells us. They don't teach that the Bible is the truth. These people appear to be Christians but are actually working to undermine the church. This is why Jude

urged us, pleaded with us to fight for the faith delivered to us. We must remember that being saved by faith alone, Jesus alone, and God's grace alone is not something made up by us. It was delivered to us. It is a faith delivered once for all, not a faith that needs to be changed or improved upon.

Last week, we began studying Jude 5-7. In those verses, Jude showed us the seriousness of what is at stake when we fight for the faith. This is not merely an academic exercise. This is not a trivial exercise. People's eternities hang in the balance based on what they believe about Jesus and their faith in Jesus. In these verses, Jude reached into the past to show us examples of what happened when people knew Jesus but turn their backs and walk away from Jesus. It does not end well them when they walked away from Jesus. It will not end well for us if we walk away from Jesus.

The first example in Jude 5 was the Exodus generation.

Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. Jude 5 (ESV)

Jude told us Jesus was active in the Old Testament, not just in the New Testament. Jesus was active saving God's people in the Old Testament just as he saved God's people in the New Testament. In the Old Testament, Jesus could only save God's people in a lesser way. He saved the Exodus generation from physical slavery and earthly death in Egypt. But Jesus came to us. He took on a body in the womb of Mary. He died for us and our sin. He rose from the grave and conquered the power of death. He did this so now he can save us in a greater way. He can save all of us from ultimate slavery, slavery to sin. He can save us from ultimate death, eternal damnation in the lake of fire after death.

If Jesus saved God's people out of Egypt, that means Jesus is the one who sent the plagues on the Egyptians. Jesus parted the Red Sea so the Exodus generation could walk across that sea on dry ground. Jesus is the one who gave them manna every morning in the desert, except one day a week. Jesus gave them water for a rock for their thirst twice. The examples could go on and on of Jesus saving them against every adversity they faced. The problem was that instead of being grateful to Jesus for saving them from death in Egypt, the people whined, grumbled and complained all the time. It all came to a head when they were on the edge of the Promised Land. They sent in 12 spies to check out the Promised Land. Ten came back claiming the land was good but the people were like giants. They all looked like they came off the cover of Muscle and Fitness Magazine. The spies said, "We are like grass hoppers in their eyes. We wouldn't be able to make it. Let's go back to Egypt!" Only two, Caleb and Joshua, said that if Jesus destroyed the Egyptians, if Jesus brought them across the Red Sea on dry ground, if Jesus gave them manna every day, then Jesus would enable them to conquer the Promised Land.

Unfortunately, the Exodus generation sided with the 10 spies who didn't believe. As a result, the same Jesus who saved the Exodus generation out of the land of Egypt decided to punish these people. He condemned them to walking in circles in the desert until all 1-2 million of them died and were buried. It was their children that would go in. After all Jesus had done for them, they kept turning their backs on Jesus. It did not end well for the Exodus generation. The Israelites

were so close to the Promised Land but because they kept turning their back on the Jesus who saved them, they never made it into the Promised Land.

Jude's point is that if it didn't end well for the Exodus generation when it turned its back on Jesus, it will not end well for us if we turn our backs on Jesus. We must not walk away from the faith delivered once for all to the saints. We have experienced a greater salvation by Jesus than the Exodus generation ever did. We must not walk away from the great salvation Jesus has achieved for us!

This is why Jude said to contend for the faith. Do not let anyone slip into your church or your life that will pull you away from trusting in Jesus.

Jude 6 gave another example of turning on Jesus that did not end well.

And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day... Jude 6 (ESV)

In the last verse, it was the Exodus generation that turned its back on Jesus, and it did not end well. In this verse, it is talking about angels that turned their backs on Jesus. It did not end well for them either.

If you were here last week, you know this verse launched us into a wild discussion. We do not have time to go into this verse in depth. If you want to know more, check out the message online. Let me briefly summarize what we learned. Some angels rebelled against God. They are called fallen angels or demons. According to Genesis 6, it seems that in the time before the flood, some of the particularly powerful and especially wicked demons powerfully possessed men and turned the earth into a terribly wicked place where the thoughts of everyone were always wicked all the time.

At the time of the flood, everyone but Noah and his family died. Jesus didn't just destroy everything that wasn't on the ark but also those especially powerful demons who had possessed men to turn the earth into an especially wicked place were judged by Jesus. Jesus took those demons, bound them in chains, and put them in a dark part of the universe from which they will never escape. They will be there until the day of judgment.

Jude's message was clear. For anyone who rebels against Jesus or who walks away from Jesus, it will not end well. The Jesus who saves you becomes the Jesus who judges you if you walk away from him. This is why Jude begged us to contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints. Do not let a spiritual terrorist slip into your church, your denomination, your school or your Christian organization and take you away from the historic faith of trusting in Jesus alone to save you. If you let that happen, it will not end well.

This brings us to verse 7. Last week, while I hoped to cover verse 7 we didn't have time. We will spend the rest of our time together immersed in this verse. Let's read the verse and see how it fits into this book.

...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)

This verse teaches us about two things. It teaches us about homosexuality and about hell. Homosexuality was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah perished in a lake of fire, which previews the ultimate lake of fire that awaits all those who live in rebellion against Jesus at the end of time.

This morning, using this verse as the launching point, we will look at the topics of homosexuality and hell.

Homosexuality — The Bible's teaching on homosexuality is clear.

Perhaps no story was more impactful on the people of God than the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is referenced one way or another over 20 times in the Bible. The devastation God unleashed on Sodom, Gomorrah and the surrounding cities of that valley for their sexual sin was horrifying.

The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was intended to serve as a perpetual reminder of the awesome nature of God's judgement on sin, especially on sexual sin.

In the days of Jesus, and today, the area of Sodom and Gomorrah by the Dead Sea is a desolate place. It has boiling tar pits and smoke rises from cracks in the earth. It wasn't always that way. Genesis 13 tells us what it was like.

And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) Genesis 13:10 (ESV)

At one time it was a beautiful place. It was a nice neighborhood. This was why Lot wanted to live there. It resembled the Garden of Eden. All that changed when Jesus brought judgment on these cities.

What moved Jesus to bring judgement on these cities? Jude told us it was because of their sexual immorality. In the Greek, it is the word *porneia*. That is a junk drawer term that refers to any sexual relations outside of the context of one man and one woman in marriage for life. It includes premarital sex, extramarital sex, pornography on the Internet, lesbianism, gay sex, bi-sexuality, transgenderism, and the queer lifestyle. You name it. Jude told us Sodom and

Gomorrah was not just guilty of sexual immorality but the Greek has the “ek” prefix in front of it. That means extreme sexual immorality of all types and kinds.

In addition, Jude told us they pursued “unnatural desire.” In the Greek it literally says the people of the city pursued “strange flesh.” That means incompatible flesh. The men of the city were pursuing intimacy with men. The women were pursuing sexual intimacy with women. So people in the city were extremely sexually immoral. One of their sexual immoralities was homosexuality and lesbianism.

Even though Jude told us what brought about Jesus’ destruction of these cities by fire from heaven, let’s go back to Genesis 19 and see the details of how the final destruction of these cities unfolded. Remember this is not the only time sin like this occurred in these cities. It is only one example of sin like this that occurred all the time in these cities.

The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth and said, “My lords, please turn aside to your servant’s house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way.” They said, “No; we will spend the night in the town square.” But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. Genesis 19:1–3 (ESV)

Lot was Abraham’s nephew. He was a relatively godly guy, but he was living in a very ungodly place. The reason he pushed so hard to be hospitable to these the angels, who appeared as men, was because he didn’t want them staying in the town square overnight. He knew how the people of the town treated visitors to their community. Let’s just say they didn’t give a friendly welcome.

But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." Genesis 19:4–5 (ESV)

All the men of the city, both young and old, planned to involve themselves in a gang homosexual rape of Lot's guests. As Jude said, this was extreme sexual immorality and it was pursuing sexually incompatible flesh.

By the way, there are people out there, who are spiritual terrorists in my opinion, who slip into churches and try to legitimize homosexuality in the church. They claim the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was not homosexuality but a lack of hospitality. Personally, I think those guys are theological fruitcakes. They claim Lot was being a bad host. "When it says the men of the city wanted to "know" these men, that just means they wanted to greet them. Lot was being a bad host."

How do we answer these people? First, we simply turn back to Jude. Jude is inspired Scripture. We let God's words in one place of the Bible explain something else in the Bible. Jude told us the sin of Sodom had Gomorrah was not a lack of hospitality. It was extreme sexual immorality and homosexuality.

Secondly, there are times in Hebrew when the word "to know" means to greet people. Other times, in Hebrew it means sexual intimacy. How do we know which sense the author of Genesis intended in these verses? Just three verses later the author of Genesis uses the this term "know" again. Lot offers his daughters to the men of the city and says, "They have never known a man." By that he did not mean they have never met a man in their lives. He meant they were virgins. Of course, this was a major mistake on Lot's part, but when the men

of the city wanted to know Lot's guests, and Lot said, "Don't do this wicked thing. It would be better for you if you knew my virgin daughters," it is obviously talking about sexuality.

Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly..." Genesis 19:6-7 (ESV)

Obviously, this is talking about gang homosexual rape. This has nothing to do with greeting these men. Lot begged the men of the city to not act so wickedly. In addition, I think we should notice that these men knew gang homosexual rape was evil. They knew it instinctively. They also knew it because Lot told them it was evil. They were intent on doing it anyway.

"Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof." Genesis 19:8 (ESV)

This is not a good thing. This was a major failure on Lot's part. He should have been protecting his daughters, not offering them up to these evil men. This week, I kept wondering why Lot did this. While I don't know for sure, I suspect Lot feared for his life at this moment. He was so afraid for his life that he was willing to send out his virgin daughters to be raped by these men. As we will see in the next verse, these perverted men were so far gone they were not even interested in Lot's virgin daughters.

But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down. Genesis 19:9 (ESV)

These men were now not just interested in raping Lot's two angelic visitors but now they also planned to gang homosexual rape Lot! What an amazing attitude of these homosexuals. They were completely controlled by their

perverted lusts. They didn't care about what happened to other people as long as they could get release for their homosexual passions.

But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door. Genesis 19:10–11 (ESV)

You would think that after God struck all the men of the town blind, they would wise up a bit and maybe start to think gang homosexual rape was a bad idea. This was a warning shot from God over the bow. It was one last chance to repent. They didn't wise up. Instead, they wore themselves out in lust as, in blindness, they keep looking for the men they wanted to rape. These guys were not taking God's hint that they were heading in the wrong direction. They reached the point of no return.

Most of you know what happened next. The angels told Lot and his family to leave town immediately because they were going to rain down fire and sulfur on the cities to destroy them for their wickedness. That is exactly what happened. God incinerated the cities of that valley with fire and sulfur falling from the heavens turning the entire valley into a lake of fire.

Some of you say, "That is a nice Bible story, but what proof do we have that actually happened?" Archaeologists tell us this area of the world is geologically unstable. In the past, there were massive volcanic eruptions. In addition, where these cities were located is on top of oil fields. Archaeologists tell us when this area experienced volcanic activity in the past, it resulted in not just hot lava flying into the air and falling into the valley but flaming oil and tar turning the valley into a sea of fire.

Now that we know what happened, let's get back to why this happened. The Bible tells us it was Jesus judging Sodom and Gomorrah for their sexual sin. It was the extreme sexuality immorality outside of marriage. It was also their homosexuality and lesbianism.

After reading Genesis 19 and Jude 7, I would begin to think homosexuality is not a good idea. It looks like something especially detestable to God. Unfortunately, that is not the way our society looks at homosexuality. There is huge pressure in our country to make homosexuality, lesbianism and the entire LGBTQ agenda seem normal, healthy, and acceptable.

Let me give you some examples. This summer Franklin Graham was scheduled to speak in Liverpool, England, in an evangelistic crusade similar to the types of crusades his father Billy Graham used to undertake. The stadium where he was scheduled to speak in Liverpool refused to let him come because of pressure from the LGBTQ community.

A recent news article quoted the Reverend Andrew Forshew-Cain, a gay Anglican priest, expressing why he was thankful Franklin Graham was no longer coming to his community. Let me quote him.

“Mr. Graham is entitled to his opinions and is free to express them, but there are consequences for doing so, when they are so repugnant and divisive... it would be good if other venues on your gospel tour would also exercise their freedom and not spread your message of hate toward the LGBTQ community.”¹

What did Franklin Graham say? What is the hatred of Franklin Graham toward the LGBTQ community? As far as I can tell, it is simply this: He says the Bible does not endorse the homosexual lifestyle. The Bible presents

¹ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/franklin-graham-liverpool_n_5e3049e0c5b6ce51a4ec087f

homosexuality as a sin of which we need to repent, not a lifestyle we are to celebrate and enjoy.

A little closer to home is the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, Pete Buttigieg. He is a gay Episcopalian. He was seeking the democratic presidential nomination. The Episcopalian church claims there is nothing wrong with homosexuality. It closes its eyes to Genesis 19 and Jude and celebrates homosexuality.

It is not just the Anglican Church and the Episcopalian church but many mainline denominations endorse homosexual lifestyles and the LGBTQ agenda that Jude 7 and Genesis 19 seem to clear oppose. What does the rest of the Bible say?

At this point, I want to widen our lens a little and look around the Bible to see what else it says about homosexuality.

Leviticus considers homosexuality a serious sin.

Coming after the Genesis account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah for homosexuality is Leviticus. In the holiness codes, there are two clear condemnations of homosexuality.

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)

Both of these clearly condemn homosexuality. The second one prescribes the death penalty for homosexual offenders, which is exactly what God enacted on Sodom and Gomorrah.

Today, there are people who claim we should ignore these verses in Leviticus. They are irrelevant. Leviticus was only for Old Testament Israel. They were just culturally-bound commands. They claim the homosexuality referred to in these commands pertained to homosexuality in Canaanite idol worship. They claim Leviticus wasn't condemning the loving, caring kind of homosexuality we have today.

What do you think about that objection? It makes no sense to me. If that were true, these verses would say "only Canaanite homosexuality." In addition, if it was true, it would mean the verses around these verses would only prohibit what happened in Canaanite worship. What do the verses around these verses prohibit? They prohibit a man becoming sexually involved with his neighbor's wife. That applies all the time, not just in Canaanite worship. They prohibit burning your children in the fire. That applies all the time, not just in Canaanite worship. They prohibit human beings becoming intimate with animals. That applies all the time, not just in Canaanite worship.

There are a few other things we should notice. There are others sins in Leviticus that are called abominations but only homosexuality is singled out by itself and called an abomination. It is the only issue in purity codes in Leviticus given that title. Apparently God finds it particularly offensive.

It is also the only forbidden act in the purity codes that required the death penalty for both parties. That speaks to the seriousness of homosexuality in God's eyes. This helps explain why Jesus destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, where every man in the city participated in homosexual gang rape. Both Leviticus

and Genesis paint a very dark picture about homosexuality, even though it is mainstream in our culture.

Romans describes homosexuality as evidence of a life far from God.

Rome was a place of great sexual depravity. Homosexuality and lesbianism were rampant in the city. In preparation for this message, I did a little research on this topic. From the years 31 B.C. to 100 A.D., almost all of the 12 Roman emperors in that time were either bi-sexual or gay. Paul's letter to the Romans was written during Nero's reign from A.D. 54-68. He was bi-sexual. The word on the street about Nero was that he was every man's woman and every woman's man.

It makes sense when Paul wrote to the Romans, he would address the topic of homosexuality, which was so common in Roman culture.

In the opening verses of this book, Paul talked about mankind's rebellion against God. He described what it leads to in life.

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. Romans 1:21-23 (ESV)

Although people know God exists from simply looking at creation around them, instead of worshipping God and honoring God, they went their own direction. As a result, people's thinking becomes futile. Their hearts become darkened. They think they are wise but are actually fools. The first thing that happens when people turn away from God is they will make something in

creation the God they worship. They begin to worship images of man, birds, animals, and creeping things.

If you have traveled around the world or are familiar with the different religions of the world, you have seen that happen. People worship statues. They worship idols. They are into astrology. They worship the planets. In India they worship the cow, thinking it is a reincarnated ancestor. This is what happens when people leave God. Everyone worships something. If they won't worship the true God of the universe, they will find something around them and make it their god to worship in the universe. Paul then gave us the next step when people continue to walk away from God.

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. Romans 1:24–25 (ESV)

If people persist in this direction, God gives them up. He lets them go their own way. Soon people find themselves in bondage to their lusts. The word for impurity here refers to sexual impurity. After people leave God, they initially create a god of their own, making and worship it. Second, they are consumed with lust as they worship sex. They become consumed by heterosexual sin. Lust, porn, sleeping around, you name it. That is the next step people take as they get further from God. Then Paul took us to the next stop on the train away from God.

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. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. Romans 1:26–28 (ESV)

The next step in rebellion against God after heterosexual sin that is out of control is homosexual sin. It is the giving up of natural relations of men with women for relationships that are women with women and men with men.

In Paul's mind, homosexuality is an especially clear illustration of a heart that has persistently turned away from God. Those who suppress the truth about God as revealed in nature will end up suppressing the truth about themselves and their sexuality. Homosexual practice is rebellion against God on the horizontal relational plane that began as rebellion against God on the vertical plane.

Paul said homosexuality is evidence of people who have walked away from God for a long time.

It doesn't matter if people are in committed homosexual relationships. It doesn't matter if people are being true to their feelings. It doesn't matter if people claim they were born that way. They are suppressing the truth about God and they are suppressing the truth about themselves. They do not know God. They are running from God.

Paul closed this section with these words.

Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. Romans 1:32 (ESV)

God's judgement on homosexuality was death for Sodom and Gomorrah. It was also the death penalty for homosexuality in Leviticus. Paul also said the death penalty is the just response to homosexuality because it is so offensive to God. As we said at the beginning, what God says about homosexuality is clear, not fuzzy.

I am not saying that we should be out there killing homosexuals. I am not saying that at all! We are to love our neighbors even if we don't agree with their lifestyles and actions. What I am saying is homosexuality, lesbianism and all parts of the LGBTQ lifestyle are very offensive to God. It is a sin that is so offensive to God that the appropriate response was death. Even if our society tells us homosexuality is not a big deal and we are a bigots because we tell people the Bible considers homosexuality sin, all we can do is tell people the truth. As Franklin Graham said, "Homosexuality is not a lifestyle to celebrate. It is a sin of which people need to repent."

We also should notice that Paul said God's judgement was not just on practicing homosexuals but on those who give approval to those who practice these sins. This means denominations that have approved same-sex marriages are in serious hot water on this issue. They have been led astray. This means churches that close their eyes and allow their denomination to ordain homosexual and lesbian pastors are also in hot water. Those who may not participate in these things but tacitly approve of these things also bear guilt.

First Corinthians reminds us that practicing homosexuals, of any type, are not part of the kingdom of God.

Like Rome, Corinth was a place of great sexual depravity. The city of Corinth in the ancient world was like the city of Las Vegas today. What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas. What happened in Corinth, stayed in Corinth.

In the ancient world, they even coined the term "to Corinthianize." That meant to sleep around like people did in Corinth. Thankfully, there was a church Paul planted in this city. As you can imagine, the people in the church of Corinth

came out of rough sexual backgrounds. They lived in a city where anything was sexually acceptable, like America today.

In spite of this background, Paul told the people in the church of Corinth that sexual sin was not to be part of God's people. He had some strong words for them on this topic.

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

Paul gave a list of sinful lifestyles that if people persist in they will not inherit the kingdom of God. Let's look at some of these words.

Sexually immoral — That is the Greek word *porneia*. Remember, it is a junk drawer term that refers to any sexual expression outside of one man and one woman in marriage until death do them part.

Idolaters — That simply means idol worshippers. In this context, it most likely means those who engage in sex as part of a pagan ritual.

Adulterers — That means those who are not faithful in marriage.

Men who practice homosexuality — This brings us to the topic of homosexuality that we are looking at this morning. Paul was clear that practicing homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God. Those people who claim to be ordained clergy in different churches and denominations that are practicing homosexuals are only fooling themselves. They don't know God. They will not inherit the kingdom of God. Those are not my words. I am simply reading the Bible!

The Greek behind this phrase is very descriptive. While most modern translations simply use a catch-all phrase such as “men who practice homosexuality” to represent the Greek words, there are actually two important terms behind this phrase. One is *malakoi*. The other is *arsenokotai*. Both terms refers to homosexuality. *Malakoi* means to be soft or effeminate. It refers to the passive or more feminine partner in a homosexual relationship. *Arsenokotai* literally means men-bedder. It refers to the active more masculine partner who pursues the homosexual relationship.

Why did Paul use both of these terms? I think the reason he did was because he was covering all the different forms of homosexuality. Those men who feel more effeminate and have more passively walked into practicing homosexuality and those who are masculine and who actively pursue homosexuality, both of those who are practicing homosexuality will not inherit the kingdom of God. All forms of practicing homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God.

When people say God has no problem with loving consensual committed homosexual relationships, that is not true. Paul said all forms of practicing homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God.

What is someone to do if they struggle with same-sex desires? They're to do the same thing that the rest of us must do when we struggle with opposite sex desires: Remain celibate. Just as heterosexuals must control their sexual desires and remain celibate until they are married, which is never guaranteed to

happen, homosexuals must remain celibate. There is no God-honoring form of homosexual marriage. This may be hard truth but it is the truth.

As a pastor, when I prepare a message, I am always balancing two things. They are truth and grace. So far in this message, I have been heavy on the side of truth. That was intentional. When it comes to the topic of homosexuality and the LGBTQ lifestyle, there is a shortage of biblical truth on the topic. That is why I spent most of my time presenting truth. Let's talk about grace in this area and where it is found.

There is great hope for those who struggle with homosexuality, transgender dysphoria, lesbianism, and bi-sexuality. There is even hope for those who struggle to please God with their heterosexuality. It is not found in hormone therapy. It is not found in psychotherapy. It is found in Jesus! Look how Paul continued his letter.

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. 1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV)

Paul said the sexual sins that he just described were no longer dominating and defining the Christians of the church in Corinth. For most of the people in that church, that was their former way of life, not a current way of life. What made the change? Jesus! Remember that when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and ask Jesus to be in charge of our lives, we are born again. *Jesus doesn't just forgive us of our sins but he breaks the power of sin and sets us free from the control of our sin, even the deep-rooted sin of homosexuality.*

Paul said these people in Corinth were washed. The stain of their past lives were washed away by Jesus. They were sanctified, that means made holy.

Their hearts then yearned to live holy and be pleasing to God in their lives, not delighting in sin. They were now justified. That means they were made right by Jesus.

What happened to the Christians in Corinth can happen to any of us. Those who genuinely repents of their sin, asks Jesus to forgive their sin, and asks Jesus to be in charge of their lives will find Jesus breaking the power of sin over their lives.

You say, "Is this really true?" In college, I was a computer science major. My academic advisor was a former homosexual. When he was introduced to Jesus and became a Christian Jesus changed him. He left the homosexual lifestyle. He eventually married a wife, raised children, and ended up serving in an Evangelical Free Church in his community. He was my academic advisor and a great man of God. It was Jesus who took him out of that lifestyle and transformed his life.

So from Genesis to Leviticus, to Romans, to 1 Corinthians we have the unanimous witness of the Bible that homosexuality is an offense to God. It is so offensive to God that in Old Testament times it was the guaranteed death penalty for both parties involved. Denominations that have departed from the Bible's position by either openly endorsing homosexuality or ordaining homosexual clergy are out of step with the Bible. The good news is homosexuality is a sin problem. When sin is the problem, Jesus is always the answer.

Let's get back to Jude to finish Jude 7.

Hell — The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is an earthly example of just eternal punishment.

...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)

Second Peter says the same thing.

...if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly... 2 Peter 2:6 (ESV)

Both Jude and 2 Peter tell us that the way Sodom and Gomorrah came to an end in a lake of fire was an earthy preview of the everlasting punishment that awaits everyone who has turned away from Jesus.

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. Revelation 21:8 (ESV)

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15 (ESV)

The good news is always Jesus. Jesus doesn't just save us from the power of sexual sin and homosexuality in this life. Jesus saves us from the lake of fire that we deserve to endure for all of eternity in the next life. If we repent of our sin and trust in Jesus to save us, Jesus breaks the power of sin and takes away the eternal consequences of our sin that result in the lake of fire for all eternity.

It is not just sexual sin that leads to the lake of fire. It is all sin. The only way our names are to be written in the book of life is by trusting in Jesus, who came to pay for all of our sin.

This is the historic Christian faith. This is the faith which Jude said we must never leave. Do not want to let anyone slip into our church and pull us away

from the truth of Jesus. Do not let anyone try and convince you homosexuality is not a big deal in God's eyes. Don't let anyone try and deceive you into thinking Jesus is not enough to save you from the current power of sin and the eternal consequences of sin. When sin is the problem, Jesus is always the answer.



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