

hope: ***“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 6:9-11.

These are the ones who will not inherit the Kingdom of God: all people in rebellion. Greedy idolaters, drunkards and thieves. Fornicators who are sleeping with their girlfriend/boyfriend outside of marriage are also in rebellion against God.

Homosexuality is sinful, but it is not the only or unforgivable sin. There is hope for forgiveness and life transformation by the Holy Spirit. ***“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

How Should the Church Respond?

Sadly, too often the church has shown hostility instead of love. Yes, we as the church ought to Wake Up when we see homosexuality being celebrated in our countries today and realize that this means God is removing His hand of restraint from sinners. This should grieve us.

So what are we to do as the Church? We are to preach the Gospel. So often we are afraid because we live in the intolerant culture of *“tolerance”* that says you cannot say, or even think anything that offends anyone. But the Gospel says all are under God’s Judgment fundamentally, not because we are LGBTQ, but because we all are living in rebellion to our Creator. We lie, we cheat, we slander our neighbours, we hate and we lust and are guilty of murder and adultery in our hearts and minds.

God’s Mercy

God has extended mercy through Jesus Christ. Jesus came to live a perfect life that we could never live. He died the death that we deserved and He was raised from the dead for our sins. Jesus stood in our place, for our sins. You and I stood condemned, but Jesus took the punishment for our rebellion. God will either punish our sins eternally in hell or deal with our sin on the Cross and thus turning His wrath into favour and grace. The relationship has been restored through the steadfast love of God.

We all have broken the commandments of God and will suffer His wrath unless we turn in repentance and faith to the One who bore the just punishment of God on our behalf. We must be given a new heart by the Spirit of God, a new righteousness through the life and death of Jesus and we need to be given a new holiness to live a life for the glory of God.

What if I’m Gay?

If you are someone who identifies with the LGBTQ community today, please turn to the mercy of the Lord. He died to pay the punishment for your sins. I am no better than you. I too need the mercy of Christ to wash my sins and make me new. Your fundamental problem is not homosexuality, but that you are estranged from God and in rebellion to His rule. You don’t need to clean your life up before turning to Christ. You need to turn to Him and cast yourself upon His mercy in the Cross. He will change and transform you by the power of the Gospel and by His grace, He will daily give you the strength to overcome sin.

If you have come to Christ from a background of homosexuality, start getting involved in a Christian community where they can help you overcome sin. Sin breeds in isolation, but righteousness breeds in community. We need to be helped by the body of Christ, prayed for and held accountable by other believers, so that we can begin to grow in Christ. Christ died to pay the punishment for all sin throughout all history past, present and future, that we may be reconciled to Him.

“For there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other Name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved” Acts 4:12.

“Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved” Romans 10:13.



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Celebrating Brokenness

We live in a culture that celebrates the sexual brokenness that came into the world when Adam sinned. When the Fall happened relationships were fractured. Abuse came into the world. Divorce now ruptures marriages. Many children grow up today without a father or a mother. Yet the world wants to say we should celebrate this. Because it's okay for children to grow up without a father and instead have two mothers. And it's okay not to have a mother and instead have two fathers. What does the One who created love, created men, women, marriage, humanity say?

Creator's Design for Marriage

We read in the Bible, God's design from Creation is that marriage is between one man and one woman for life. ***"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.'"*** Genesis 1:26-27.

Jesus addressed the issue of divorce which is a form of sexual brokenness that completely severs a marriage relationship. He said to a Pharisee about this: ***"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?'"***

Matthew 19:4-5.

God is noted here as *"He who created them."* Therefore, He alone has the right to say what is the proper design for marriage and what is the true created order. If He makes animals and the earth to be cared for by human kind, then He has the right to say that it must be in this created order. He who makes a mother and father produce children and thus creates a family, as the Creator, has the right to say what belongs in this order.

And indeed this is the way that a family is produced, by a mother and a father, who come together in a loving union to produce children. This is His original intent. Jesus says that it has been so *"from the beginning [God] made them male and female"* because it is modelled after the Lord's good Creation.

Corruption of Marriage

Even though this is the original design, since the Fall it has been twisted and distorted. Humanity has been corrupted by sin. There is no area of our lives or the universe that has not been touched by the depravity of sin and rebellion. As a result, we have strife in our relationships.

Now that we have seen that the original design of God was an engendered design, what else do the Scriptures say?

First, all sin is an egregious crime against the Creator, because it is a breaking of His Law. Made in His image, we are misrepresenting God's Holy Character. We can see clearly in these passages that homosexuality is a serious sin against the Creator.

God's Law says: ***"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination"*** Leviticus 18:22.

"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.

These verses reveal that, in God's eyes, this is a serious sin.

Homosexuality in the New Testament

In the New Testament, Paul writes to the Roman church about God's wrath revealed from the Heavenly courts against this godless world. His anger stands in opposition and condemnation against this present world system. It is not as if God is singling out homosexuals specifically, rather His wrath is upon all people who violate His Law.

Homosexuality is not the only boundary in God's design of marriage. There are other parameters, such as you cannot marry a child, as that would be pedophilia and you cannot marry a sibling, as that would be incest. God has put these parameters in place, because He created us and knows how we work, just as He created marriage and knows how it works.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth" Romans 1:18.

The Bible tells us that everyone who does not know Christ is actively suppressing the truth about God in unrighteousness. This is because all are in rebellion to our Creator.

It then says that the supreme example of how far astray that we have rebelled is that we have been given over to unnatural sexual relationships.

This is not a new development. When the Apostle Paul wrote this, there were homosexual acts being committed rampantly throughout the Roman empire. The leaders in the Roman world engaged in these acts. Nero was known to engage in homosexual and even paedophilic acts; lesbianism was portrayed on the walls of Pompeii. Therefore, the issue of homosexuality was a serious issue for Paul to address. One that could even cost him his life, because he would be speaking against the emperor. Here is what He wrote about homosexuality in Romans:

"God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonouring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! For this reason, God gave them up to dishonourable 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 1:24-27

He says that both gay and lesbian acts are evidence of God's wrath against humanity. It demonstrates that God is removing His hand of restraint on a culture that is living in rebellion against Him.

Our fundamental problem is that we have rebelled against God's loving and perfect reign. God made us in His image and now we woefully use that image to invent ways to sin against God. We have a sin nature and we need to be rescued by the mercy of God. Paul says to the Corinthians:

"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. And such were some of you." But then he goes on, there is