## What Does The Bible Say About Homosexuality?

What Does Jesus Say About Homosexuality?



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A Publication of Sweet Manna Ministries

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#### Introduction

This study is about what the Bible has to say about homosexuality. The subject is one that is very dear to my heart because I have had very close family members and friends who have confessed to being homosexual. All of whom I love dearly. It is my love for them that is the motivating factor that prompts me to write this article.

In this day and age the topic of gay rights has invaded every aspect of our daily lives. There is an obvious movement that has infiltrated the main stream media, for rarely is there a TV show that has not cast a homosexual couple as lovers. Every day in the news we read about new legislation for or against gay rights. This movement is currently in the process of trying to re-define the meaning of marriage. At the time of this writing we have in these United States, 36 states that have legalized gay marriage.

The situation becomes more and more complicated every day because out of the closet emerges our sons and our daughters, our nephews and our nieces along with our cousins, our sisters and our brothers, our husbands and our fathers, along with our wives and our mothers. These are people we love and care for deeply.

These are people we want to be happy and have a good and fulfilled life. They tell us that a person of the same sex is their desire and this is the lifestyle they want. Our value system has been breached; for thousands of years we thought homosexuality to be a sexual perversion, but now that it has invaded our homes, we prefer to call it an alternate lifestyle. Surely two people in love should be allowed to be together and to be happy.

We have changed our opinions and our values; what we once called perversion we now call preference. However, the only opinion that matters for all Eternity, is the opinion of the one who has created us. God has set the standard for our conduct, but the choice is ours. Our opinions mean nothing unless they line up with the opinion of our Creator. He has promised us that obedience to His word brings blessings, and disobedience brings curses. As I have said, the choice is ours to make.

As a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ I too have a decision to make. I have a choice to keep silent and allow those I love so much to face the consequences of their decisions without the knowledge that I have of the scriptures, or I can love them enough to tell them what a loving God has to say about homosexuality. A day is fast approaching when teaching what the Bible has to say about homosexuality will be a hate crime. This to me is like saying; a fireman rescuing a child from a burning building is committing a hateful act.

As Christians we must always question the world's view against the scriptures. I believe that the Bible is the standard that we are to use in order to measure the social issues of our day. With so many voices vying for our attention, it is my desire that the voice of our creator will be heard as you read this book, and that His voice will silence all other voices that are contrary to the Truth. It is also my hope that this e-book will be used as an evangelistic tool to share with those that are questioning what the Bible has to say about the subject of homosexuality.

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#### In The Beginning

Since the beginning of time the devil has used the same tactics to deceive the people of God. In the garden he deceived Eve with these words, "Did God say?" He always brings the Word of God into question. This we see today more than ever, especially since his time is limited and we approach the end of days. The homosexual community, gay activists, and supporters always ask this question, "Where in the scriptures does Jesus condemn homosexuality?

This tells me that they do not understand the scriptures, nor do they have a complete knowledge of who Jesus is. I will try, though it will be difficult to cover such a complex subject adequately. This study will steer you to the scriptures that answer this question. Generally, those that want a direct quote from Jesus believe that the Old Testament is irrelevant for today. This is unfortunate, because most of the end time prophecies that we are watching come to pass in our day are contained in the Old Testament. Jesus has yet to fulfill many of those Old Testament prophecies.

First of all, let's answer the question of who Jesus is. The gospel of John makes it clear that Jesus is the Word made flesh.

**John 1:1-14** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

It is clear from this scripture that Jesus was in the beginning and that all things were created by Him. It is Jesus who spoke the Word that created all things. It is Jesus that holds all things together.

If Jesus is The Word, and if He is God, and if He changes not, then His Word still stands, and that includes most of the Old Testament, that God spoke to Moses and the prophets of old.

I say most, because there are scriptures that are no longer necessary to keep because Jesus has fulfilled them. The sacrificial system for example is in that category. This system was a picture of the first coming of the Messiah and has been done away with until "The Millennium Reign," when the sacrificial system will be re-instated as a memorial. So, those scriptures about sacrificing a lamb have been fulfilled by Jesus and are not relevant for us today. This part of the law was nailed to the tree with Him. He became our sacrificial Lamb. Therefore, everything about this system is no longer relevant for us today.

However, His instructions on how to live a blessed life still stand. I say His, because He and the Father are One, they together as One, gave us every book of the Bible as instructions to live a blessed life. Although His commandments still stand the penalty for breaking them, which was death in many cases, has been paid for by Jesus and nailed to the cross as well. He paid the penalty of death and hell that we deserved because of sin. Therefore, we who are in Christ are free from the penalty, and death has lost its sting. As an example, once an Adulterous was stoned to death, now however, upon repentance her sin is covered in the blood shed upon the cross and the penalty of death for her sin has been done away with. All those scriptures in the Old Testament that have a penalty of death have been fulfilled by Jesus. He paid the price, so we can be free from its penalty providing we repent of sin and are covered in His blood.

Yet, those who continue in their sin today and are without Christ await His judgment for their disobedience, which will take place on judgment day.

#### The Fulfillment

When Jesus walked this earth there was no New Testament. Every reference He made referred to the Old Testament. In fact He said:

**Matthew 5:17-20** "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

So you see out of Jesus' own mouth we see Him indicate that righteous behavior is connected to keeping His commandments. There are actually 613 commandments to keep, not just the main 10 that we have all been taught in Sunday school. To keep all 613 commandments is an impossible task for sinful fallen man. So Jesus clothes us in His righteousness when we become "Born Again." Then the filling of His Holy Spirit within us gives us the power and the ability to live righteous lives and to keep His commandments.

Is it not God that has given man these commandments? If you agree that Jesus is God in the flesh...then it is Jesus that gave us these commandments, and if Jesus is the Word, then the word of God stands forever.

Therefore, it is Jesus that said in **Lev. 18:22**, "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman it is an abomination," and then in **Lev. 20:13** it says "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination." Jesus laid down His life for this sin and paid the penalty, which was death. Therefore the second part of this scripture has been fulfilled....the second part is" (they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.)

However, this act still remains an abomination in Gods eyes; the only thing that has changed is the penalty of an immediate death sentence. Jesus paid the death sentence with His blood. He paid a great price to cleanse those who commit this abomination and this cleansing is theirs for the asking. His love knows no bounds and there is no sin too great for our God to cleanse. However those who refuse to be cleansed have sentenced themselves to a sentence on judgment day of eternal fire and separation from God for all of eternity.

#### The Law of First Mention

Moving forward now to the New Testament let's take a look at what is said on the topic in the scriptures there. First let's look at the word abomination. According to Strong's concordance, the Greek word for abomination is the word "bdelugma" and it means detestable.

In the Hebrew it is the word tobah and it means disgusting or abhorrence. I mention this because there is a method of interpreting the Bible called the law of first mention that sets the precedence for the subject or doctrine. The "law of first-mention" is the principle in the interpretation of Scripture which states that the first mention or

occurrence of a subject in Scripture establishes an unchangeable pattern, with that subject remaining unchanged in the mind of God throughout Scripture.

The first time the prohibition of same sex involvement is in **Lev. 18: 22** where it says: "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman it is an abomination." According then to this principle everywhere the subject is mentioned throughout the Bible this statement will not change. Same sex involvement is and always will be an abomination to God.

Mankind tries to reason and reach our conclusions based on our emotions and limited knowledge of God. We often try to shape God into our image instead of shaping ourselves into His image.

There are many scriptures that man struggles with and all the things that are an abomination in the eyes of God are just some of those scriptures we wrestle with. Jesus addressed this very issue. In Luke 16:15 when He said:

**Luke 16: 15** "Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

Jesus was addressing covetousness when He made this statement but it applies to every act that God calls an abomination.

We may highly esteem men and women for various reasons but the scriptures are clear that there are things we esteem that God calls an abomination. So I would suggest searching the scriptures for the things that the Lord calls an abomination and then conform to God's way of thinking instead of the other way around.

#### Paul The Disciple of Jesus

Now it is important to understand that Paul makes it clear to us that what he teaches is not his own opinions, nor does it come from any man, but what he teaches comes directly from Jesus preaching to him, Himself. After Paul was confronted on the road to Damascus by Jesus, he discontinued his trip to Damascus and went to Arabia, where Jesus taught him for three years.

**Galatians 1: 11-18** "But I certify you, brethren, **that the gospel which was preached of me** is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, **but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.** For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who

separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, **To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen;** immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into **Arabia**, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after **three years** I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days."

Therefore, the gospel that Paul teaches us he learned from Jesus and so Paul is quoting Jesus. Furthermore, anyone who perverts the gospel of Christ is accursed. We must be very careful as to what we believe, if our belief system does not line up with the written word, we must be the ones to change.

**Galatians 1:6-9** "I marvel that you so soon are being moved away from Him who called you into the grace of Christ, to another gospel, which is not another, but some are troubling you, and desiring to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from Heaven preach a gospel to you beside what we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we said before, and now I say again, If anyone preaches a gospel to you beside what you have received, let him be accursed."

As a little side note here, let me share an experience that I had personally with the Holy Spirit. This happened many years ago when I was first filled with the Holy Spirit and the Lord was teaching me many things. I was in prayer and I was talking to the Lord about an opinion that I had about something.

I do not remember the topic of discussion, but I will never forget the lesson learned. I was going on and on about something that was dear to my heart and discussing my opinion about it. Then, I heard in my Spirit the Lord say, "I am not interested in your opinion. My people are an opinionated people, and unless their opinion lines up with my Word, I am not interested."

Well, from that day on I began to search the scriptures to see where I was in error. I found out that I was in error about many things and I had to make a decision to line up with the truth spoken by God and the men He chose to bring us His truth. The Word of God changed me and my opinions about life. There are scriptures that I do not like! But those scriptures that I do not like remain to be the truth, whether or not I like them. I do not have to like them. I do however need to conform, so that I believe them.

Now let's get back to the writings of Paul that he spoke because of his revelation from Our Risen Lord. Paul in his letter to the Romans makes it clear that all sexual immorality is grievous to God and those practicing homosexual acts, women and men alike are given up to a debased mind.

Romans 1:21-25 "Because, knowing God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were thankful. But they became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools and changed the glory of the

incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed animals, and creeping things.

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves. For they changed the truth of God into a lie, and they worshiped and served the created thing more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."

**Romans 1:26:32** "For this cause, God gave them up to dishonorable affections. For even their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust toward one another; males with males working out shamefulness, and receiving in themselves the recompense which was fitting for their error.

And even as they did not think fit to have God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do the things not right, being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; being full of envy, murder, quarrels, deceit, evil habits, becoming whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, insolent, proud, braggarts, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, perfidious, without natural affection, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous order of God, that those practicing such things are worthy of death, not only do them, but have pleasure in those practicing them."

The scriptures designate those who habitually practice sin without repentance will not enter the Kingdom of God. How thankful we can be, although we were once numbered among the unrighteous, the blood of Jesus exonerates our sin, making us righteous, providing we do not crucify our Lord again.

**Hebrews 6:4-6** "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the world to come, and who have fallen away; it is impossible, I say, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify the Son of God afresh to themselves and put Him to an open shame."

The scriptures are very clear on those that will not inherit the Kingdom of God. There is a long list of unrepentant sinners and homosexuality is among them.

**1Corinthians 6:9-11** "Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor abusers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

Also in Timothy, a student of Paul and therefore Jesus, we find the following:

**1 Timothy 1:8 -10** "Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 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, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine ... (ESV)

When the Bible speaks of the unrighteous it is referring to those who have ignored the call of salvation and habitually practice sin. We have all been there enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season. But praise be to God, He has freed us from our bondage and sin no longer has a hold on those of us that have been bought with the blood of Jesus.

A thief is no longer a thief when he stops stealing. A fornicator is no longer a fornicator when he stops fornicating. Likewise a homosexual is no longer a homosexual when he stops having sex with someone of the same sex as he or she. According to the scriptures homosexuality is an unrighteous act just as being a liar is an unrighteous act. Homosexuality is not an identity that someone is born to be.

A liar is not born with an identity of being born a liar. Like homosexuality, being a liar, is an unrighteous act. To believe differently is to believe something that is contrary to scripture. Reason would question what kind of a God would create someone as a homosexual and then turn around and call it an abomination? The God of creation did not create homosexuality. To do so would be contrary to His essence.

According to Timothy to practice homosexuality is contrary to sound doctrine. Jesus taught Paul and Paul taught Timothy the way of truth. We have been warned by Timothy that a time would come when there will be those who believe false doctrine or fables.

**2Timothy 4:3-4** "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

#### Remez

The New Testament is clear that Jesus chose Paul and Jesus taught Paul. Likewise Jesus revealed Himself to John and He appeared to John just as He had done with Paul. Jesus makes an interesting statement to John when He makes this appearance.

Before we take a look at that statement, it would be important to explain a Jewish method of communication and method of interpreting the word, called "remez."

The education of a Jewish child started somewhere between three and five years of age. The only text book would have been what we call the Old Testament. By the age of 12 or 13 much or all of the text would have been memorized. When Jesus taught He quoted from the Old Testament. However, it was not necessary to quote the entire text because just a phrase or two, or even just a word, would guide His audience to the text. As an example, if I were to say to you, Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. Most people would recognize this statement as coming from the 23rd Psalm. Now if you have the Psalm memorized your mind would take you through the entire Psalm. This was the case in Jesus day. Just the mention of a word would cause a replay in the mind of those educated in the Word of God, recalling many scriptures that spoke of that particular word.

As we take a look at the following scripture, we must keep this in mind, especially when it comes to the word abominable. Here is what Jesus said,

**Rev 21:7-8** "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the **abominable**, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

I have bolded abominable not because it is any greater sin than the others mentioned, but because it is our topic of discussion. The Lord our God has set the standard, like it or not He is describing those who have not been able to overcome their sin. Included within the abominable is homosexuality, it is there couched with all the things that are detestable to the Lord.

When John heard the Hebrew word for abominable spoken by our Lord, he would have thought of all the acts of abomination that were forbidden by God. His mind would have shot back to Lev. 18:22 "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman it is an abomination," and then in Lev. 20:13 would have come to mind. "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination." A Jewish audience would have understood how encompassing this statement of Jesus' in Revelation really was.

Jesus condemns all sinful lifestyles. Actually we condemn ourselves. God has set the standard and when we choose to live contrary to the Lord's standard, we condemn ourselves. He hates all sin and so should we. The Lord calls many things an abomination, we may not agree, we may not like it, but His ways are above ours and His thinking is far above ours. We are to conform to His way of thinking, not the other way around. Although many things are an abomination to a Holy God, this article is focusing on homosexuality.

He gave up His life in order to free us from the bondage of sin, and every abomination, including homosexuality. Our society has accepted the homosexual lifestyle as an alternative to the creation story of Adam and Eve.

God ordained marriage in the Garden of Eden where He created male and female for the purpose of populating the earth so He could have a family to shower His love upon. But Satan entered Eden and sin was born.

#### **Just As In The Days of Noah**

Satan and one third of the angels were thrown out of heaven and have been corrupting mankind ever since. The history of homosexuality is pretty interesting. It has always been associated with pagan ritual. The Canaanites practiced homosexual acts during their worship to their pagan gods and godesses.1 Likewise, the Romans in the first century preformed homosexual acts in worship to their many gods.2

The ancient rabbinical writings tell us that homosexuality ran rampant in the nations before the flood. However, they also tell us that it was not until marriage contracts between two men or between two women became common place that the waters of the flood were initiated by God for judgment.

An ancient commentary on Leviticus 18:3 reads: Rabbah 23:9 Rabbi Hiyyah taught: The passage reads: "I am the Lord, your God," two times...I am the One Who punished the generations of the Flood, and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, and Egypt: and in the future I will punish those who do as they did. The generations of the flood were kings, and were wiped off the earth when they were soaked in sexual sin.

Then from Sifra Acharei Mot, Parashah 9:8..." And what did they do? A man got married to a man, and a woman to a woman, and her daughter, and a woman was married to two men. Therefore it is said, *And you shall not walk in my statutes*"

From the Bible we learn that the men of Sodom wanted to have sex with the Angels that were known to be in Lot's house before Lot was rescued and Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed. The Angels in scripture are always male figures and nowhere in the Bible do you find a female angel. So the men of Sodom were interested in the Angels because they were male.

Previous to this we learn from Genesis that the "sons of God," who according to most scholars are the fallen angels who were kicked out of God's heaven with Satan. The ancient writings tell us these fallen angels taught mankind all sorts of evil and perverted ways. Mankind had become so corrupt that sex with the fallen angels had become common place. This knowledge helps us understand the men of Sodom desiring the Angels of God.

The Bible says very little about them except to point out that their children were referred to as giants.

**Genesis 6:4** "There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."

However the Bible quotes and recommends the reading of two historical books that tell us a great deal about them. They are the book of Enoch and the book of Jasher.

We discover from the book of Enoch that he confirms it is the fallen angels of Satan that taught mankind about all sexual immorality, including homosexuality. Enoch tells us that his book was not to be a part of the Cannon but he was to write it for the people of the end times. Since the book of Enoch and Jasher are quoted in the Bible, I am therefore recommending them here as a references that have historical information in them that fill in the gaps.

Since the book of Enoch was written for the people of the end times, what is the main message of his book? It gives us a history of the fallen angels. It also warns of people changing the words of the books given to man by God, i.e. the Bible. In addition his message is about the sinful condition of the world before the second coming of the Messiah and how it mirrors the condition of the world before the flood. Jesus did the same thing, He said:

**Matthew 24:37-39** "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Since the Rabbi's say it was the marriage contracts between homosexuals that tipped the scales of judgment, could Jesus be using "remez" which is a hint of something hidden or deeper, when He said they were marrying and giving in marriage? Is it possible that He was referring to the contracts of marriage between homosexuals at the time of Noah would again be happening in our day just before His return?

- 1. Page of Ancient Paganism, The Sorcery of The Fallen Angels, Ken Johnson TH.D.
- 2. Ibid

#### **God Ordained Marriage**

Homosexuality is in the opinion of this ministry, and I believe this opinion is supported by scripture, to be an affront to marriage and to the God who instituted marriage in the garden. To re-define marriage to be something else than what it was originally sanctioned to be is outside of the original doctrines of the church and it destroys the picture of Yeshua and His Bride.

All through history Satan has stood in opposition to God and His word. One of his most successful tools to entice individuals away from God is the seduction of souls through various immoral sex practices, homosexuality being one of them.

God ordained marriage as I have said before in the Garden of Eden between Adam and Eve, male and female. Marriage between a man and woman in the purest sense was to be a picture of the marriage of Jesus and His Bride. Paul speaks of this union as being a mystery.

Eph 5:25-33 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

The Lord created woman for man and her design was a miraculously designed picture of Jesus' blood covenant with His Bride, the called out ones, referred to here as the church. A man and woman become one flesh through the act of sexual intercourse. When this happens for the first time it was to be a picture of a virgin because the Bride of Christ is to be a virgin indicating that she is without sin. The act of sexual intercourse breaks the hymen and there is a blood flow which takes place ratifying a marriage covenant between a man and his wife. This blood covenant pictures the blood covenant that Jesus has with His Bride because of the work of the cross.

I began this study by saying that I was motivated by love to write it. And it is with a great love for all homosexuals that I have labored over this article. I believe your choice to deviate from the standard of your creator has consequences of being

separated from God for all eternity. I do not want this for you. The few hours of pleasure that are available to you on this earth are not worth the separation from God for all eternity. There is a cost to follow Jesus, that cost is to give up your life, but indeed the cost not too is even greater.

#### It's As Good As It Gets

The main message of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that there is life after death. According to the Christian faith, those that have been "born from above" will spend eternity with God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Those that die in their sin un-regenerated will spend eternity cut off from God in a place called, "the lake of fire."

In my way of thinking, it would be a "hate crime" to keep silent about what the Bible says about all sin that leads to "lake of fire," including homosexuality. I refuse to hate you...I will tell you the truth...and so I have.

Let me close by telling you a true story about a Christian woman who was very much in love with her husband, who one day confessed to her that he was a homosexual. He informed her that he was no longer in love with her, but that he was in love with another man. The home that they lived in together was large and rather than break up the family, she allowed her husband's partner to move in. Her husband and his partner occupied the upper level together.

She did everything in her power to bless them. She cleaned for them. She cooked for them. She did their laundry and their ironing. She loved both of them with her whole heart. She allowed them to come and go as they pleased. She served them in every way possible.

Then one day she was on the phone with a friend and the friend asked her, why? Why do you put yourself through this? Why do you serve these two homosexual men the way that you do? What the woman did not know was that her husband and partner were listening to the conversation on the phone when she answered her friend. They heard her say.

"You see," she said, "I cook, I clean, I do their laundry, and in fact I go out of my way for my husband and his partner to see to it that I provide every possible blessing that is in my power to give them. I do this because, you see, I believe that their life here on this earth now is as good as it gets for them. I shudder to think what eternity is going to be like for them."

This story ends so very beautifully. Both of these men gave up their homosexual life styles and turned their lives over to Jesus. Once they heard the love and conviction in the woman's voice as she shared her reasons for loving them, they were convinced that the things that she believed must be true.

This is in my opinion a beautiful story and I just love the outcome, but I want to say that I also support any Christian that feels that their conscience dictates another reaction. Many Christians, and I confess to be among them, feel that to encourage and support the homosexual lifestyle violates their conscience. Speaking for myself, I cannot in good conscience encourage any kind of Sin. My conscience is dictated by my Christian faith that adheres to the original doctrines of the faith which list homosexuality among those sins left unchecked that will separate the offender from God for all eternity. How then can I keep silent...I cannot! I will continue to love each and every person who confesses to be homosexual...and I will also continue to preach to them the truth that is contained in the Word of God about their choice.

What I want to ask of my readers is that you love the homosexuals in your life enough to tell them the truth about what the Bible says about their choice. Let them know you love them but not their sin.

If by chance some of my readers may be homosexual, then I ask that you love yourself enough to search out the scriptures for yourself and make a decision to abstain from the pleasures of the flesh and discover that the greatest pleasure in all of life is intimacy with your creator, Jesus. If you are ready to discover the greatest pleasure in all of life, just pray the prayer below and I promise you that your life will never be the same again.

Father God, I confess to you this day that I am in need of your help. I have fallen into the sexual sin of homosexuality, and there seems to be a power so much greater than I that continues to seduce me and convince me that I was born this way. I want to be free from this powerful force and experience the freedom that is promised to those that are "born from above." I believe your son Jesus died for me and that His shed blood on the cross was for me so that I can be free from the penalty of sin. I ask you to forgive me for every act that was displeasing to you. I need you and I need to know your love. Jesus, I open the door of my heart and I invite You to come in and dwell within my heart. Reveal Yourself to me, and change me to be who You want me to be and teach me to walk in Your ways from this day forward and on into eternity. Amen

If you prayed this prayer, then welcome to the family of God. May your soul find the peace that only comes from the Prince of Peace, Yeshua, Jesus. My prayer is that this study will be an instrument in the Hand of the Lord to draw those He loves so much unto Himself.