

The Coming Storm over Homosexuality

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Introduction: Men and cultures are always changing.

A. Satan is the ruler of this world and the master of the nations.

(Jn 12:31; Jn 14:30)

1. How did Satan use the God ordained governments in Rome and Israel?

(Acts 4:27-28)

2. Early Christians were respectful and obedient to rulers who often tried to persecute them for their faith.

B. What should we do when the culture turns to persecution against Christians?

I. Christians were persecuted by the governments of their day

A. Rome instituted Caesar worship and there was immense pressure upon Christians to compromise with the culture.

1. The ability to work and make a living was taken away.

2. Christians were a tiny, tiny minority that were ridiculed and ignored.

3. The book of Revelation describes this conflict and the ultimate outcome.

(Rev 2:10-13; 17:14)

4. Would God allow this nation to become a persecuting power towards Christians? God wants us to know before the conflict that He is in control! **(Rev 2:27; 12:5; 19:15)**

B. What does this mean to the Christian?

1. We need to know what the Bible teaches.

2. We need to understand that ours is not a political battle, but a spiritual one.

(Jn 18:36)

3. We need to answer the arguments advanced by those who justify sin. We need to teach our children how to answer these things.

II. What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

A. The Old Testament condemns homosexuality.

1. The cities of Sodom openly practiced homosexuality. **(Gen. 19:1-7)**

2. God specifically forbid it. **(Lev. 18:22)**

3. Homosexuality would receive the death penalty. **(Lev. 20:13)**

B. The New Testament condemns homosexuality.

1. Here is the culture of Rome in the 1st century. **(Rom. 1:26-32)**

2. God tells us it is “against nature” and “vile passion.” **(Rom 1:26)**

3. Same sex involvement is not new in history! You cannot limit this “new morality” just to adults. Every Caesar was involved with young boys.

4. The homosexual lifestyle is a terrible life of rejection and pain. God tells us they “receive in themselves” punishment. **(Rom 1:27)**

5. This “lifestyle” affects the mind and every relationship. A “reprobate mind” is one who is absolutely hostile to God. **(Rom 1:28, 32)**

6. Christians converted homosexuals in the 1st century! **(1 Cor. 6:9-10)**

a. Effeminate (malakos: Thayer-effeminate. of a catamite, a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness).

- b. "abusers of themselves with mankind" - denotes homosexuality.
- c. "Be not deceived" - Do not be led astray by plausible talk to cover up sin and change it into something respectable and acceptable.

7. Homosexuality is included with those who are "abusers of themselves with men." (**1 Tim. 1:10**)

8. Homosexuality is fornication **Jude 7**.

C. Those who practice any sin cannot go to heaven!

III. What are the arguments used to justify homosexuality?

A. "The Bible is a reflection of the culture of that time. Our culture is different!"

- 1. What is "culture"? It is a system of values!
- 2. God expects all men to put away the sins of the flesh and put on the fruit of the Spirit. (**Gal 5:19-25**)
- 3. Most who accept homosexuality do not believe in the inspiration God's word.
- 4. Many are excited about the "Gay-Rights" movement because they correctly see an opportunity to persecute Christians.

B. "Homosexuals are born this way. They did not choose this lifestyle so it cannot be a sin."

- 1. If they can prove an inborn nature the Bible would still tell us to not practice this desire! The alcoholic who desires to drink even after becoming a Christian he puts this desire away and refuses to act upon it. (**Rom 8:13-14**)
- 2. There is no proof that homosexuality is inborn.

C. "The Bible teaches that homosexuality is right! My interpretation is just as good as yours."

- 1. I attended a debate in Birmingham years ago on this subject.
- 2. In time the churches of our day will join the culture. (**2 Pt 3:16**)

D. "If you deny practicing homosexuals membership in your church then you are bigoted and hate-filled just like those who hated blacks in the 1950's."

E. "Since I have been saved by the grace of God you must accept me as I am because once I am saved I cannot be lost."

- 1. The grace of God is not a cover for sin. (**2 Pt 2:18-19**)
- 2. Many brethren are opening the door for fellowship with those who teach that homosexuality *is not a sin*.

III. What should we do in this current culture?

A. Defend the truth without shame. (**Jude 3**)

- 1. Several young men ridiculed brethren for speaking out. I asked this question: "Is the practice of homosexual sex a sin?"
- 2. You can add this subject to the list of what some call "negative preaching!"

B. Be prepared to show love to those in this error with the intent of converting them! (**2 Tim 2:24-26**)

Conclusion: Let us not be sidetracked into a political battle but rather let us redouble our efforts to preach the gospel! (**Rom 1:16-17**)