

Homosexuality – Alternative Lifestyle or Societal Rebellion?

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Preface

I know that all of you are faced with this issue. Some, I am sure, hold to a Biblical perspective on this issue. However others, I am afraid, might be tempted to accept this lifestyle as valid. I also believe there are some here who have personally, secretly, struggled with this. I pray you will consider this message and that the Word of God will distill as the dew in your hearts.

Introduction

Homosexuality

- Is a cultural fad at present.
- Has been added to entertainment for comedic value (often a homosexual provides the punchline based upon their orientation).
- Many celebrities are 'coming out' as homosexuals.
- As you well know, many legal battles have been fought over associated issues.
 - Marriage
 - Parental rights
 - Adoption
- Is one of the greatest debated social issues, eliciting strong emotions
 - Two such common tenancies
 - Acceptance – that it's no problem
 - Anger and prejudice

I want to share the Scriptural perspective with which to approach the subject in terms of our opinions of homosexuality and our interaction with those affected. This is based on a disposition to accept what the Bible present to us on this subject – God's Word 'throughly furnishes' us as to the life Christ expects.

Fundamentals

- How does God view homosexuality?
 - When giving laws concerning sexual morality and purity, God condemned homosexuality as 'abomination.' (Leviticus 18:22)
 - God destroyed two large cities, Sodom and Gomorrah, for extreme wickedness.
 - The wickedness demonstrated in the Genesis narrative is homosexuality, ie. Sodomy.
- Why is this offensive to God?
 - Homosexuality rebels against God's most basic design in nature, the continuation of a species through reproduction.
 - God created mankind as a special creation, made in His own image.
 - Male and Female created He them. (Genesis 1:27)
 - Marriage was established between one man and one woman as a picture of Christ and His bride. Homosexuality obviously perverts this.

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Severity of this phenomenon in a culture (*Satan wants you to believe this is a mere 'alternative lifestyle'*)

- While every culture has had this occur in isolated cases, the extreme occurrence of this in a society is indicative of the final steps into societal sin and the judgment of God (*ie., given over to a reprobate mind*).
 - Romans chapter 1:18-32
 - In society's infancy, human kind knew of the existence of God (*see Cain's conversation with the Lord in Genesis 4*). However, a downward spiral ensued which began with the rejection of God as creator and lawgiver which eventually led to the sin of homosexuality. Part of God's judgment on a society in this vile shape is to '*give them over*' to their wicked intentions.
 - Sadly, this same pattern has showed itself in other cultures including our own.

Biblical Approach To This Issue

- Are people born this way?
 - This is a personal choice, as evidenced by the increase in popularity (Romans 1).
 - Even if a person has a predisposition toward this particular sin, as with any sin self mortification of the lusts of the flesh is required. Giving in to this sin is tantamount to giving in to any other grievous sin (drunkenness, fornication, gambling, etc).
- We are responsible to preach the truth in love.
 - Not in anger, but let your speech be always with grace, unmerited favor. (Colossians 4:6)
 - Calling upon men to repent. (Acts 2:38, Acts 17:16-31)
- Dealing with personal struggles with lustful thoughts.
 - Confession of this sin to the Lord (1 John 1:7-9).
 - Confront the issue as early as possible, the earlier the better.
 - Even if this lifestyle is already embraced, it's never too late for repentance.
 - Christ promises to cleanse His children of all unrighteousness.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9 states current church members in Corinth had, at one time, been effeminate, indicating they were repentant homosexuals.
 - This means that repentant homosexuals can find strength to repent and even a loving home in Christ's church.
 - James teaches there is strength and accountability in the Church between believers (James 5:16 - *confess faults, pray, be healed...*)
 - This highlights our responsibility as believers to be FORGIVING to those who repent of past sins.