



# The Good News

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## Homosexuality - Right or Wrong?

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No doubt most of us have at some point encountered some resistance to the idea that homosexuality is wrong. While there is a portion of Americans out there who still believe that homosexuality is not acceptable, many of them resist it because of tradition and preference, as opposed to righteous indignation against the acceptance of sin. Even in the religious community, churches, preachers, and “religious” individuals are making pushes to allow the homosexual community the same acceptance as any other. There are those who try to straddle the fence by saying that, while they themselves do not accept homosexuality, it is not right to condemn it. They think that they can hold to their opinion of non-acceptance and still be politically correct in not condemning the sin. Amid the politics, the Bible gets knocked for being “old-fashioned” and “outdated”. Many try to justify homosexuality by twisting Scripture “to their own destruction” (II Pet. 3:16). The question we want to ask today is, does the Bible truly condemn homosexuality?

**Sodom and Gomorrah** – In the accounts of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and subsequent references by Biblical writers, it is clear that these two cities were exceedingly wicked in the sight of God. We find in **Gen. 19:4-8** that the men of the city wanted to “know” the visitors (angels) that were in Lot’s house. This is an Old-Style sexual reference, such as “And Adam knew his wife, and she brought forth a son.” These men were not even interested in the “virgin” daughters that Lot tried to give them. In **Jude 7** we find a reference to “sexual immorality” and “strange flesh” that suffers “the vengeance of eternal fire”. Even the term “sodomy” comes directly from the city of Sodom and its definition is consistent with the sin of the city.

**New Testament references** – In **Rom. 1:26-29**, Paul calls lesbianism and homosexuality sins that are “*against nature*”, “*committing what is shameful*”. In **I Tim. 1:8-10**, Paul says that the law is for those who are “*unholy and profane*”, “*for fornicators, for sodomites*”. The term here is “*arsenokoites*” which means “*one who lies with a male as with a female*”. But perhaps the most damning of Scriptures against homosexuality is **I Cor. 6:9, 11** where Paul says that the “*unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God*”. What is considered “unrighteous”? Paul says “*neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites...*” shall inherit the kingdom of God. What is the difference between “homosexuals” and “sodomites”? The difference is in the behavior and the physical sin. The term here “sodomites” is the term mentioned above “*arsenokoites*”. But the term “homosexuals” (“effeminate” in the KJV) is the Greek term “*malakos*” which means “*delicate, soft, womanly, having traits and habits generally considered feminine*”. This describes the attributes of those who “act gay” and is applicable both to homosexual men who try to act like women, and to homosexual women who attempt to do the same as men.

Despite the efforts of society to redefine terms and desensitize people to homosexuality, the reality is that it is sinful to commit the sexual sin and to even “act gay” according to the Bible. No amount of time can pass that will change what the terms “righteous” and “unrighteous” mean. Let us make sure that our friends, co-workers, and family understand God’s reality – homosexuality is sinful and must be acknowledged as such. Souls depend on it.