

Study 5

Do no evil (II) – Homosexuality

This is a very controversial topic. It doesn't help when even within the Universal Church, we also cannot come to an agreement whether homosexuality is something that is permissible by God or not. It is confusing because we look at the same bible yet the interpretations differ. In some parts of the world, we can find ordained ministers who are in a same sex relationship and they are also empowered to solemnise gay marriages. Worse still, Christians who maintain their conviction that a homosexual lifestyle is not permitted by God are being persecuted. It is interesting to note that while the gay activists demand that society respects their choices, they are very intolerant of other people's choices.

1. Discuss whether two people who are of the same gender and who sincerely love each other should be allowed to get married.

2. What does the OT say about homosexuality and what was the punishment meted out to those who practised homosexuality?
(Leviticus 18.22; 20.13)

Notice that even before the Law was given, people in Sodom and Gomorrah were all destroyed (except for Lot and his family, Genesis 19.1-11) because, amongst other kinds of wickedness, the men of the city had wanted to rape the two angels (they didn't know they were angels) who visited the city to see whether the people there were as wicked as the outcry against them suggested (Genesis 18.20-21).

In the OT, both before the law was given and then under the law, homosexuality was considered to be sin for non-Israelites and Israelites. This was true for non-consensual and consensual cases. They resulted in God's judgment and death.

3. What does the NT say about homosexuality and what is the punishment meted out to those who practise homosexuality? (Romans 1.20-32; 1 Corinthians 6.9-11; 1 Timothy 1.8-15)
4. Some say that since Jesus never mentioned anything about homosexuality in the Gospel when it should be rampant during his time, he was not against it. Otherwise, he would have devoted some of his teachings to this issue. How would you respond to these people? (Matthew 5.17; 19.3-9)

5. Is homosexuality genetic? If it is genetic or "natural" does that make it morally acceptable?

6. How would you respond to people who claim that they derive their identity from their sexuality and their fulfilment in life from the satisfaction of their desires which include being fulfilled sexually?

7. If a gay or lesbian couple turns up in church, how should the leaders and members of the church treat them?

8. If you yourself have homosexual inclination, what would you do?

9. As we come to the end of this whole series of studies, what is the common approach taken (beliefs, attitudes, actions) towards living a holy life? Can such an approach also help one to overcome his homosexual sins?

Additional resources:

Homosexuality is Unnatural: The Is-Ought Fallacy?

<https://bible.org/article/homosexuality-unnatural-ought-fallacy>

Paul, Romans, and Homosexuality

<http://bible.org/article/paul-romans-and-homosexuality>

<http://ymi.today/2016/10/i-didnt-choose-to-be-gay/>