

## **The Christian and Homosexuality Overcoming the Sin of Sodomy**

**By Cooper Abrams**

Let us face it; the homosexual community is a large and powerful entity with an agenda to promote and legitimize homosexuality. They have made great inroads into modern society and homosexuality, same sex marriage is now accepted as being an acceptable alternate lifestyle. Even many of today's churches have brought into the false assertion that homosexuality is simply an alternate way of life. Adding to the acceptance and growth of homosexuality in our society is that many Protestant denominations now openly condone this behavior and even ordain LGBT ministers to their churches. This includes Lutherans, United Methodists, Moravian, Presbyterians, and other smaller groups. Baptists stand out as not allowing practicing homosexuals to be members of their churches or ministers. Others who take the biblical position include the Assemblies of God, Nazarenes, Adventists, CRCNA, United Pentecostal, Evangelical Presbyterians, Roman Catholic, and the Presbyterians Church in America. The other "Christian" groups vary in their positions, but mostly accept homosexuality as acceptable. Having these churches deny God's stated word and condoning homosexuality adds to its acceptance.

Sodomy seeks legitimized itself by using deceiving words such as "gay" or using the symbol its rainbow. Using these misleading symbols does not change what sodomy is.

In support, many "scientific" studies claim that homosexuality is normal and natural to many people. In other words, they allege that some people are born attracted to their same sex, without a choice as to their sexuality. These "studies" conveniently support the purposes and further the goal of the LBGT community in establishing the idea that homosexuality is simply a natural and acceptable lifestyle. Most of our society accepts the "finds" of these studies without questioning the bias of those paying for and conducting the research. Further, they do not consider questioning how the research was conducted. It should be recognized that often the result of such research was done to support a particular preconceived prejudice.

Modern, so-called science, contributes to the deception by purporting that homosexual behavior is inherited some people's genes. For example, many cite a study done by Dr. Michael Bailey of Northwestern University

who examined 110 identical twins and found that there was a 52 percent probability that if one twin was homosexual and the other would be also.<sup>i</sup> He concluded that it was a matter of genetics, and many people are presupposed towards homosexuality. However, he failed to address the fact that in only 52% of the twins with one being homosexual the other was not. Twins being genetically identical, why was the other 48% not homosexual? Further, are not most twins normally raised together in the same environment? Environmental influence on one would also be on the other also. So why did only 52% of twins with one homosexual sibling become homosexual. This shows that choice was probably the reason and certainly not genetics. One of the twins chose the homosexual lifestyle, and the other did not. It seems that some “scientific” studies are flawed and ignore the implications of their own research.

Because of Dr. Bailey’s research, he concluded in his book “The Man Who Would Be Queen” that some male cross genders are driven by erotic fascination, rather than driven by some biological mistake. He is recognized as a reputable scientist, but because his findings are not “politically correct”, he is being severely criticized and persecuted by the LGTB community.

In our public schools today, the agenda of the homosexual society is being perpetrated on children in the earliest ages. Homosexual behavior is presented as simply an “alternate” lifestyle that is normal and acceptable. Children in the early grades of school are being urged to choose which lifestyle they wish to live with no prohibitions. Further, homosexuality in youth today has become the “vogue” and many think it is “cool” to choose this lifestyle. The pressure is strong to practice homosexual behavior and be accepted one’s peers.

However, the question as to whether homosexual behavior is acceptable does not rest with science, modern sociological thought, or public opinion. The right or wrong of any behavior rests with the One who created us.

### **What Does God, our Creator, Say about Homosexuality?**

This question can only be answered by our Creator. Our God and Creator, since the beginning has in His word the Bible, often addressed homosexuality and states His unambiguous position that homosexuality is

a sin and further is an abomination to Him. Surely, our Creator would not condemn those who practice sodomy if He made them that way. Clearly, our God and Creator has made very definitive statements about homosexuality or sodomy:

*“Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.”* (Leviticus 18:22)

*“If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.”* (Leviticus 20:13)

*“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change 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 one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”* (Romans 1:21-32)

*“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind”* (1 Corinthians 6:9)

*“Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.” (Jude 7-8)*

God not only stated His condemnation of homosexuality (sodomy), but also demonstrated His wrath against this sin by destroying the cities Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim with fire and brimstone. Jude states God did so to set an example of those who practiced this abominable sin. God states that He is immutable, meaning He does not change. Homosexuality is an abomination today as it always has been with God.

### **What is Sodomy and what is its Source?**

First, God calls sodomy “an abomination” because it is a blatant act of rebellion that disgusts God. It does so because the sodomite refuses to accept God’s order in Creation in which God made a person a male or female. It involves despicable unnatural acts, but perverts God’s will in giving sexuality to man. Genesis states clearly, *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”* (Genesis 1:27) He expressed His plan for mankind in instructing Adam and Eve saying, *“And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.”* (Genesis 1:22) He further reiterated His desire stating, *“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”* (Underline added)

Thus, God explicitly states He made man and women differently that they could multiply by bearing children and propagate mankind. He made them differently so that they would complement each other in child bearing and raising the family and their relations with each other. In doing so, they would honor God and fulfill His will as their Creator and plan for mankind.

Sodomy is diametrically opposed and opposite of God’s plan in creating man. Sodomy is born in the evil of Satan, who seeks to destroy

all good things that God has created and perverts God's purposes. It appeals to the most base of man's evil desires. Therefore, God says sodomy is an abomination to Him as it perverts God's plans to offer His free gift of mercy, forgiveness, and salvation to man. Sin, in all its forms, arises from the rebellion of Satan who seeks to exert his will over God. Sodomy is a blatant rejection of God, of His love, mercy, and grace and therefore, is an abomination to God.

### **Why Do People Practice Sodomy?**

This brings us to the next question of why do people practice sodomy? In seeking to justify the sin of sodomy, man has tried to divorce it from its true source, which is simply sexual lust. The word "lust" is defined as "a desire, craving, longing, mostly of evil desires," In Colossians 3:5, sodomy is referred to as "inordinate affection" which is associated with passion.

God plainly states how the process of sinning develops:

*"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren."* (James 1:13-16)

First the verse states God does not tempt any man, therefore the temptation has another source with clearly is man's carnal nature. (See Rom. 3:10-18, 23) God says people are tempted when drawn away by their own lust and enticed. Temptation is not sin, however, at the point where temptation is entertained in one's thoughts and allowed to entice, is where it becomes temptation then becomes sinful lust. The New Testament uses the word "conceived" (συλλαμβανω *sullambano*) which means, "to seize or clasp."

The word lust is normally thought of in terms of lusting after worldliness or of the opposite sex. Jesus said, *"But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."* (Matthew 5:28) Without question adultery is a serious sin being one of the Ten Commandments given to Israel. (Exodus 20:14) Sodomy, fornication, and adultery are born in sexual lust. As

Romans 3:10-18, 23 plainly states it is natural for man to sin and lust because of his carnal nature. When Adam and Eve sinned, their nature was changed from innocence to having a bent toward sinning and disobeying God. God gave them a perfect life and there was no sin on earth. However, not trusting God, they disobeyed His loving instructions, and Romans 5:12 explains, *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”* God wanted the very best for man and gave him His word to instruct him in righteousness, which simply means doing what is right and best for man. What Adam and Eve did, and mankind since, is to refuse God’s merciful instructions (laws) and to live in depravity with its debilitating and destructive results.

Being a practicing sodomite is a choice. God has given men a will and the ability to exercise it to do good or evil. To conclude a person does not have a choice is to call God a liar. James 1:16 warns, *“Do not err, my beloved brethren.”* It is a choice that brings the wrath of God. *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;”* (Romans 1:18)

### **Is Sodomy Acceptable to God?**

Homosexuality is not a different class of sin or biblically is justified, but is the same as all sinful lust. Modern society makes a great effort to dismiss a person’s accountability for their actions claiming that abuse and dysfunctional childhood as the cause of man’s problems, including homosexuality. This implies that sodomy is not a choice, but rather the result of forces beyond a person’s control. In the modern media, you can find hundreds of articles all purporting that homosexual behavior is not a choice. They proclaim there are five “gay” myths which themselves can be shown to be myths as well:

1. All animals are straight. (Interestingly, they first appeal to animal behavior as justification for human homosexual behavior.)

2. Homosexual relations do not last. (It is a recognized in studies such as the Kinsey report that homosexuals are typically not monogamous. The classic research of McWhirter and Mattison, reported in “The Male Couple,” (1984) which found that not a single male pair was able to

maintain fidelity in their relationship for more than five years.<sup>ii</sup> Another study, Pollak (1985) described sexual behavior among gays as an average several dozen partners a year and some hundreds in a lifetime with tremendous promiscuity.<sup>iii</sup>

3. Most pedophiles are gay. (Most molesters of boys do not report sexual interest in adult men. If a person's sexual orientation is to be drawn to their same sex, whether to adults or children, it is still homosexuality.)

4. Homosexuals do not make good parents. (Children in a homosexual environment will miss the example of a mother or father. Further, Professor Lynn D. Wardle argues that the legal academic and social science communities have come to the defense of gay marriage and parenting too hastily, without considering the effects of both on children. The author suggests that these studies have ignored the significant potential effects of gays rearing on children, including increased development of homosexual orientation in children, emotional and cognitive disadvantages caused by the absence of opposite-sex parents, and economic security.)

5. Being homosexual is not a choice. (The claim is that evidence is growing that homosexuality is genetic or biologically based. Such evidence is the result of studies biased toward justifying homosexual behavior and even their concluding statements are weak. Pomeroy stated the conclusion of his studies was that, "I think that much of human sexual behavior is no more complicated than a person's likes or dislikes for particular foods, books, amusements, or anything else.")

### **However, What Does God Who Created Us Say?**

The New Testament tells the believer, *"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light."* (Ephesians 5:6-8)

What many fail to understand that sin and the sinful nature of man came into the world when Adam and Eve sinned. Eve's sin was that she rebelled against God's stated word and made a willing choice. Thus, it was her choice that brought sin upon all mankind. Adam also followed his

rebellious wife, and he too sinned against God. Consequently, in a sense, it is natural for a man to sin, but that does not mean that man has no choice. As James 1:13-16 states a man sins when he yields to temptation. Homosexuality comes from sexual lust, which is sin.

Are some men and women drawn to their same sex? The answer is of course they are. The same question can be asked of any man or woman. Are heterosexual men and women drawn to each other? Yes, they are. However, lusting after another person sexually is sin regardless of one's sex. Having a homosexual desire is simply temptation that can lead to lust, and temptation can be resisted and overcome. What then should be the response to temptation in order that it is overcome? It first must be recognized for what it is. Homosexuality is the gross sin of lust. That is God's truth, and a person should not seek to find some justification for practicing it.

Pedophilia is a person lusting sexually after a child. Pedophiles also seek to justify their perversion by transferring the blame for their actions on abuse or their environment. Clearly, anyone can see that pedophilia is a gross sin that is plainly sinful sexual lusting and in actuality is the same as homosexuality.

### **Overcoming Homosexuality**

Believers often fail to understand that God wants us to live pure lives that we might honor God and avoid the destructive results of sin. God has not left us without His immediate help in our time of need. To the Hebrews, God wrote, *"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."* (Hebrews 4:16) Seeking God's mercy and grace in salvation is the first step in overcoming any sin.

The man who has not believed and accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior is living apart from God's desire for him. God offers all men His forgiveness of all their sins. *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."* (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

Peter wrote, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”* (2 Peter 3:9)

God’s plan is that all men can be forgiven and be saved from the condemnation of their sins. He tells us, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* (Romans 10:9-10)

Once a person believes and puts his trust in God, His Creator, he will accept that he is responsible to God. He will see that God wants the best for him, to forgive make him a child of God. At the point of salvation, God gives the believer a new nature that will enable him to make right choices and obey God. The unredeemed are not able to please God or live for Him because in is only through the work of the Holy Spirit that a man can obey God. Jesus said the unsaved man must be *“born again.”* That is the term the Lord used to describe the coming of the Holy Spirit into one’s life. The true Christian is indwelled by the Holy Spirit.

For the Christian, we must believe God and act accordingly. That is possible because of God’s presence in the life of the believer. Paul wrote under the inspiration of God, and said, *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”* (1 Corinthians 10:13) In simple terms, God says He is aware of our every temptation and in every incidence seeks activity to help us not to sin. In Romans, we read, *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”* (Romans 8:37) The verse says nothing is excluded from being overcome. Certainly, any sin, including lust can be overcome. God prepares the believer with the way to escape the temptation and avoid the sin, but it must be sought and applied. Many will not overcome sodomy because they enjoy it and will not accept that it is sin and therefore destructive.

If a person has allowed any sin, include homosexual desire to become lust, then God explains, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” (1 John 1:8-10) The process of being cleansed from sin is first in confession or admitting of one’s guilt in committing the sin. God cannot help a person who will not honestly confess their sins, this verse promises He will work to cleanse us from “all” sin if we seek His help. In the case of one having homosexuality desires, part of overcoming the sin of lust is accepting the responsibility. Blaming lust on being born that way is avoiding the reality of our responsibility to fight lust. The source of lust is our old nature we are born with. Being born with the nature to sin does not mean we have to sin. We have a choice. We can believe God and reject all sins. Jesus told the woman caught in adultery to go and sin no more. (John 8:11) In Psalm 45:7 God tells an important truth. *“Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”*

The child of God, because of having the new nature of God, loves righteousness, which meaning being right. Further, the Christian “hates” wickedness. The Hebrew word is “sane” and means to have a personal hatred. *“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”* (Proverbs 8:13) The word “froward” means to be perverse. The scriptures are clear and Jesus said, *“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you”* (Matthew 7:7)

James qualifies our asking saying, *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”* (James 1:5-8)

The “cure” or being able to overcome sexual lust is the same as any lust. A person does not have to satisfy their lust and yield to the temptation. From the world’s perspective, our society condemns those who seek to help homosexuals overcome their addiction to sexual lust. Their literature follows their agenda of seeking to justify homosexual behavior. A man’s lusting after a woman is no different than one lusting after another of the same sex. The difference is that it is often more intriguing, forbidden, and exciting. Sin is never satisfying and seeks greater satisfaction in a worse sin.

God instructs us to *“Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.”* (Psalms 119:37-38)

Further, the Christian is told to *“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”* (Ephesians 4:22-24)

God explains we are to *“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour, . . . Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”* (Ephesians 5:2, 17-19)

A believer who seeks to allow the Holy Spirit to control his life will have an easier time of fighting and overcoming lust. In time, through the process the Bible calls sanctification the Christian grows stronger in his struggles with sin and the temptation will diminish in intensity and eventually be overcome. Note the Lord is talking about temptation to sin.

Paul explained, *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)”* (Ephesians 2:1-5)

Note Paul speaking to believers said they were once dead in trespasses and sin. He said they the believer once “in times past lived in the lusts of the flesh and were by nature the children of wrath, *“BUT God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when*

*we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"*

Paul further said to the Corinthians, *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."* (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

God changed the life of those who believed, repented of their sins. He washed them free from all their sins and justified them, meaning He forgave their sins. Yes, it is natural for the sinful or carnal nature all men are born with to lust after sin. However, the repentant child of God can without question, overcome lust by recognizing and accepting what it is.

God's promise: *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."* (1 John 1:8-10)

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<sup>i</sup> Bailey, J. Michael (2003). *The Man Who Would Be Queen: The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism*. Joseph Henry Press,

<sup>ii</sup> McWhirter, D., and Mattison, A. (1984). *The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall. p.256.iM

<sup>iii</sup> Pollak, M. (1985). Male homosexuality. In *Western Sexuality: Practice and Precept in Past and Present Times*, ed. P. Aries and A. Bejin, pp. 40-61. New York: Basil Blackwell.,p44.