

Homosexuality : A Sin, Not A Birth Defect

Text : **Rom. 1: 18-32**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Every person on earth is affected by culture and most by several cultures.

1. All groups of people develop a culture. (**Values and practices held in common**)
 - a. Congress has been accused of having a “culture of corruption.” (**old as government**)
 - b. These days we read a lot about problems with “corporate culture.”
 - c. Denominations and even congregations of the church have cultures. (**This cong,**)
 2. Every nation, every region, every city and every community has a culture.
 - a. All nations have national characteristics, but no nation has a homogeneous culture.
 - b. Regions, states, cities and even communities have unique cultural characteristics.
 3. Each individual family has a culture.
 - a. Each family has a set of values and some customs.
 - b. Families develop a way of doing things and pressures all members to conform.
- * **Thus, none of us can escape the effect of culture.**

B. Culture is a dynamic thing. (Like all living things it keeps on changing.)

1. All systems defend themselves .. i.e., .. they resist change.
 - a. Those who benefit from the system don't want to risk losing their benefit/advantage.
 - b. By nature people resist change and the older we get the more we resist.
 - c. With culture, the struggle against change is a losing battle.
2. Culture is always there, but it's constantly evolving.
 - a. Circumstances change so cultures change.
 - 1) Economic circumstances ... **poor nations become rich and vice versa.**
 - 2) Technology ... **printing press, telephone, TV, Internet ... transportation**
 - 3) Migration ... **farm to city ... influx of foreigners**
 - b. Cultures change because each generation is raised in a different environment.

C. Trying to prevent a culture from changing is as frustrating as it is futile.

1. That which does not move or grow atrophies and dies.
 - a. Physical things
 - b. Commercial enterprises
 - c. Social, political, religious organizations or movements

2. Highly successful organizations fade away if they don't adapt to the current culture.
 - ill. – **NAACP had a noble cause, but has been reduced to a political pawn.**
 2. Other organizations have survived through many generations.
 - ill. – **Free Masons have survived for centuries.**
 3. Political ... Dictators who try to keep their countries the same loose power.
 4. The current problem with the Muslim extremist is doomed to failure.
 - a. They are panicked because the people they dominate are changing.
 - b. They want to keep everything the same, but can only do it by force.
- * **NO ONE CAN ESCAPE or PREVENT CHANGE.**

D. Religions follow the same course as other organizations.

1. Some adapt and survive while others fossilize and fade away.
 - a. People changed, but old "mainline" denominations didn't.
 - b. They clung to their old rituals and formalistic services so the youth left.
 - c. Each year they have more funerals and fewer members to maintain beautiful buildings.
2. Those who compromise their basic values lose their reason for existing and slowly die.
 - a. Lowering standards also lowers strength.
 - b. Any gains created by lowering standards are short-lived.
 - c. To keep such gains, additional lowering of standards must keep on occurring.

For Example : "The restoration movement was taking America by storm until it fossilized, lost it's zeal for reform and entrenched in the defensive mode. Now, the more we struggle to maintain the past unchanged and to keep our traditions unaltered, the more the lost souls pass us by with not so much as a serious consideration of the truth we proclaim."

* **Even the church cannot escape change, but we must never abandon those core values which make us the people of God.**

E. Even nations must struggle to maintain their balance.

1. Nations rise based upon a set of national values, upon its national character.
2. Nations fall when their national character deteriorates.
 - a. Few great nations have been brought down from without; most decayed from within.
 - b. Greece and Rome both rotted from within and now the U.S.A. is following their path.
3. All nations must learn the lesson of King Nebuchadnezzar:

Dan. 4: 16—Let his mind be changed from *that of a man* And let a beast's mind be given to him, And let seven periods of time pass over him. 17—This sentence is by the decree of the *angelic* watchers And the decision is a command of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men." (Nations stand ONLY so long as God allows.)

TRANSITION :

With this lesson we will look at an American cultural defect which has historically evoked the wrath of God, one that threatens our very existence.

I. AS TRUTH IS FOREVER TRUE, SO EVIL IS ALWAYS EVIL.**A. Opinions change, but a fact is always true.**

1. Figs are my favorite fruit. (*If guavas ever become available, I may change.*)
2. On planet earth, apples fall down from the tree. (Apples will never fall up.)

B. Good and evil are not determined by popular vote.

1. GOD alone sets the standard.
 - a. **Rom. 3: 3-** What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? **4-** May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man *be found* a liar, as it is written, “**THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND PREVAIL WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED.**”
 - b. **Jer. 10: 23-** I know, O LORD, that a man’s way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.
2. Men can only choose to obey or to rebel. (**Tit. 1:10**) **Man cannot overrule God.**
3. All mankind will be judged by the same standard, by the words God spoke by Christ.
 - a. **John 12: 48-** He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.
 - b. Compare ... **Matt. 7: 21-23, Acts 17: 30-31** (**Doers of His word, not hearers**)
4. Just because man approves of something, does not means God approves of it.

Luke 16: 15—And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.

C. There have always been those who call evil good.

1. **Gen. 3** ... This was Satan’s argument in the garden. (**It’s really good but God ...**)
2. **Isa. 5: 20**—Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! **21**— Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever in their own sight!

D. Man’s natural tendency is to justify his own actions.

1. **Prov. 21: 2**—Every man’s way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.

2. **Prov. 12: 15**– The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

E. Man tends to justify himself by pointing to others who do what he does. (or worse)

1. **II Cor. 10: 12**– For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

18– For it is not he who commends himself that is approved,
but he whom the Lord commends.

2. Extreme social pressure is levied against those who don't conform to cultural standards.

- a. This pressure has always been a factor in causing people not to obey the gospel.

- b. **John 12: 42**– Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing *Him*, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; **43** – for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

3. People avoid circumstances that bring condemnation upon them.

John 3: 20– For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

F. There have been many occasions when men (culture) agreed that evil was good.

1. The universal flood was a result of all the people accepting a wicked lifestyle. **Gen 6:5**
2. Most famous example was Sodom and Gomorrah. (**perversion was their normal**)
3. The Romans took pleasure in killing Christians. (**cruelty was their normal**)
4. Nazi Germany rewarded people for capturing or killing Jews. (**murder was normal**)
5. Muslims believe they earn eternal rewards for killing Christians. (**suicide bombers**)
6. Modern western society advocates killing infants and unrestrained sexual misconduct.

* **Not only does man not have the right to set his own standard, he cannot be trusted to do it in a way that is moral and right.**

II. AMERICA HAS ADOPTED AN IMMORAL STANDARD AS NORMAL.

A. We've adopted this standard because it's common in "enlightened western societies."

B. We've failed to learn the lessons of history.

1. Why do we study history ?

"Anyone who does not learn the lessons of history is doomed to repeat them."

2. **#1 Lesson** **Prov 14:34** – Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a disgrace to any people

C. Billions of dollars each year are spent promoting homosexuality in America.

1. No great nation has ever long stood which accepted homosexuality / immorality.
 - a. It's one of the ingredients that brought down Greece, Rome and other world powers.
 - b. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed burned from the earth for practicing that sin.
2. This era of extreme political correctness is a work of the devil :
 - a. to stop people from protesting the sinful decline, the moral decay, of our society.
 - b. to apply social pressure against those who cry out against sin or for righteousness.
3. The homosexual agenda is a highly organized effort and is extremely well funded.
 - a. Media ...
 - 1) 1960 network heads announced their agenda. It including acceptance of homosexuals.
 - 2) Homosexual themes and stars are now being actively promoted via movies.
 - 3) Homosexuals are featured in most TV series.
 - b. Political ...
 - 1) Decriminalized homosexuality
 - 2) Made homosexuals a protected class
 - 3) Elected homosexuals to office (**scandals**)
 - c. Opposition is silenced ...
 - 1) When one expresses a negative opinion, he is ridiculed as being homophobic.
 - 2) Any official act against homosexuality is considered a crime.
 - 3) There is strong public ridicule against all who oppose it. (**lawsuits against preachers**)

D. The homosexual agenda is falsely presented as being benign.

1. They change the name to “**gay**” and present them as cute, funny and harmless.
2. Political correctness says : As long as they don't hurt you, don't complain.
3. They are hurting us by recruiting others (esp. youths) into their perverted lifestyle.
4. They are hurting us by shortening the history of our nation ...**GOD WILL JUDGE US !!**

III. MANY TRY TO CLAIM HOMOSEXUALITY IS A BIRTH DEFECT.**A. Homosexuality is NOT an inherited, genetic orientation.**

1. The most well-known sex therapist in the country wrote “
“The genetic theory of homosexuality has been generally discarded today.”
(*Human Sexuality* by Masters, Johnson, and Koladory, pg. 411 & 412, 1985)

2. Theories differ, but most researchers trace homosexuality in childhood to the parent of the opposite gender. For example, the parent may feel unaccepted by the parent of the opposite gender or jealous of that parent's relationship with the parent of the same gender leading to feelings of greater acceptance by those of the same gender.
3. There are identical twins where one is a homo and the other is straight. (**identical genes**)
4. Hundreds of thousands of practicing homosexuals have repented and returned to normal sexual activity. (**If it can be changed by will, it could not be genetic.**)
 - a. "Dr. James Dodson reports a 70% success rate of homosexuals who seek counseling, for moral reasons, to straighten out their sexual orientation."
 - b. Everyone is affected by his environment in such a way as to make some temptation stronger or weaker than others. (**Everyone is tempted by something.**)
 - c. Yielding to ANY TEMPTATION is a choice, thus, not beyond one's ability to control.
 - 1) Violent behavior
 - 2) Sexual predators
 - 3) Drugs and alcohol

B. Even though this is commonly known and accepted as true :

1. In 1973 the American Psychological Association removed homosexuality from the list of mental disorders.
2. In 1975 the American Psychological Association urged "all mental health professionals to take the lead in removing the stigma that has long been associated with homosexual orientation."
- * a. **It can't be bad, they're not hurting anyone else.** (**Politically Correct Position**)
- b. **What anyone does in the privacy of their own home is no one else's business.**
3. Homosexuality does hurt all of us :
 - a. The public schools are teaching our children to accept this sin of perversion as normal.
 - b. As a **protected class**, the government will not allow others to keep them away.
 - c. They are filling the "**cup of iniquity**" which will bring God's judgment on our nation.

C. Homosexuality cannot be a genetic birth defect because it's illogical for God to condemn a person for something they cannot control.

1. There is no such thing as a "woman trapped in a man's body."
2. Everyone has lusts and everyone has the ability to control their lusts.
 - a. That's why we have laws against rape.
 - b. That's why psychotic killers are put in jail or executed.
3. Could God be just if He rejected you for a condition you could not control ?
 - a. We rightly teach our children not to be prejudiced. (**No one chooses his race.**)
 - b. To attribute something to God that we view to be evil is blasphemy.

D. Sexual desires are normal and useful.

1. They cause people to procreate. Thus, insuring the future of mankind.
2. Homosexuality demeans sex to mere recreation. It produces nothing.
3. We choose what we allow to attract us and we eliminate inappropriate attractions.
 - a. This is the premise upon which we outlaw child pornography.
 - b. This is the stated goal of counseling for sexual predators.

IV. THE LAW OF GOD IS VERY CLEAR REGARDING MORAL CONDUCT.**A. There is no sexual activity permitted outside of the marriage bond.**

1. Sexual relations have always been limited to a husband and a wife. (**man & woman**)
 - a. **Exod. 20: 14** (**Deut. 5: 18**)
 - b. **Lev. 20: 10f**
2. Until this day, ALL sexual activity outside of marriage is forbidden.

I Cor. 6: 9—Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10** – nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

 - b. Moral sexuality is listed as among the essentials : **Acts 15: 20, 29**

B. Homosexuality is condemned in every circumstance.

1. Old Testament : **READ ... Lev. 18: 22-30 , 20: 13**
2. New Testament : **I Cor. 6: 9-10 ... reread above.**
3. Review text.
 - a. **Rom. 1: 26** ... “God gave them over” ... God left them = godless behavior
 - b. Vs. **26** – “degrading passions”
 - c. Vs. **27** – “indecent acts”
 - d. Vs. **28** – “gave them over to a depraved mind”

CONCLUSION :**A. Times change and we must adapt or fade away.**

1. God does not want us to draw attention to ourselves by being odd, but there are some changes that Christians cannot make to accommodate culture.

2. **John 12:43** We do not want to be as those who sought man's approval above God's.
3. God warns us as He warned His people of old : (**Compare ... Lev. 18: 1-5**)
Deut. 18: 9 – **When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations.**

B. Sodom and Gomorrah were gives as an example for us to fear. (**reject homo. or ..)**

1. **Jude 6**– **And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, 7**– just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.
2. **II Pet. 2: 4**–**For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; 5**–and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; **6**–and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter;

C. God has made HIS will clear. We must choose to follow HIM or our CULTURE.

1. Our decision about homosexuality will affect each one of us and all of us as a nation.
Prov. 14:34–**Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people.**
 2. Homosexuality is a great evil about which we cannot be neutral.
 - a. **Rom. 1: 32** –and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. (**Don't watch it on TV.**)
 - b. **Rom. 14: 22** –The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.
 - c. Compare : **Luke 11: 23** with **Matt. 10: 23-34** ff (**voice disapproval**)
- * **All that is required to insure the victory of evil is to secure the silence of good men.**
- d. Christians must speak out at the polls. **Never** vote for pro-gayrights candidates.

D. Homosexuality is a sin which can be forgiven.

1. **I Cor. 6: 11**– **Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. (Comes immediately after condemn of homosexual)**
2. Keys to forgiveness include :
 - a. Faith in Christ
 - b. Repentance – sorrow for sin and willingness to change.

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