

of Sodom and Gomorrah. "But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, that with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot and came near to break the door. But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door...

Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground." (Genesis 19:4-11, 24, 25).

The severity of judgment on these cities was of such intensity that it is used as an illustration of divine judgment both by Peter, "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly," (II Peter 2:6) and Jude, "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah 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."(Jude 1:7).

While scripture makes it clear homosexuality is sin

and will come under the judgment of God, it also indicates homosexuals can find salvation. Homosexuality is a moral problem, and only God can help the sinner. Nothing is impossible with God. God's plan of salvation is the same for all. The homosexual who wants to be delivered from the penalty and power of sin, and set free from the homosexual lifestyle, must come to God in the same way other sinners come to Him.

Christians must be sure their attitudes toward homosexuals are in harmony with the teaching of scripture. They must on the one hand avoid the sentimentality, which results in tolerance of this behavior. On the other hand they must not overlook opportunities to accept and help those who want to live according to God's Word.

Same Sex Marriage

Considering the policy of GCMF as outlined above, our position concerning "same sex marriage" is that such a union cannot be sanctioned by Scripture, nor blessed by the church. Therefore all GCMF credential holders are forbidden to participate, in any way, in such a union, even if the "state" chooses to legitimize such relationships by authorizing "same sex marriages".

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Homosexuality and Same Sex Marriage



Biblical Perspective Series

Homosexuality and Same Sex Marriage

A Policy Statement of Global Christian Ministry Forum International

Homosexual behavior, whether male or female, is one area which reflects an alarming erosion of national moral standards. One reason why Christians are deeply concerned about this problem is that a nation's tolerance or intolerance of homosexuality is one indication of that nation's spiritual condition.

When Israel drifted away from God, it tolerated various evils, including sodomy, "And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations, which the Lord cast out before the children of Israel" (I Kings 14:24). When Israel returned to God, homosexuality was not tolerated, "And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made" (I Kings 15:12).

Scripture considers the practice of homosexuality sin against God and man. The church's concern about this problem is not a matter of discrimination against a minority group, this is a moral issue to which scripture speaks clearly. As followers of Christ, it is the believer's mandate to love the sinner as God loves the sinner.

Homosexuality is sin because it is contrary to the principles of sexuality, which God established in the beginning. When God created man, "in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them" (Genesis 1:27). After God had created the man, He indicted it is not good for man to live alone, "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18). It was for this reason that God created a companion suitable for man (Genesis 2:18). It should be noted that man's loneliness was not remedied by the creation of another man, but by the creation of woman.

When God brought the woman to him, Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was

taken out of Man." The scripture then states: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:23, 24).

In the creation of mankind God established principles of sexuality by which the human race was to develop. Psychologically this relationship was sound. Physically the relationship was natural. Sociologically it established the ideal family unit. The biblical concept is that human sexuality is a heterosexual, monogamous relationship.

When people choose to engage in homosexual activities, they reject God's principles of sexuality. Their aberrant sexual behavior results in sin against the nature of sexuality which God established, "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" (Romans 1:27).

In His discussion with the Pharisees, Jesus reiterated the principle of sexuality, which God established in the beginning. "And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female. And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He said unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, commits adultery: and whoso marries her

which is put away doth commit adultery. (Matthew 19:4-9).

He pointed out that the only approved lifestyle, apart from heterosexual marriage, was celibacy. "His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given, For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it." (Matthew 19:10-12).

Homosexuality is sin because the bible refers to it as evil. When God called Israel to be His nation in a distinctive sense, He provided a code by which His people were to guide every aspect of conduct. Among the laws relating to morals, specific reference was made to homosexuality.

In Leviticus 18:22 God commanded: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination." Then in Leviticus 20:13, the commandment is reinforced with severe penalty for violations. "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."

In the first century church, the city of Corinth was notorious for immorality. Because the church was being established there, it was important that people understood how God perceived immorality of every kind. In Paul's epistle to the Corinthians he states that "...nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind...shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Corinthians 6:9, 10).

Homosexuality is sin, which comes under divine judgment. The ancient city of Sodom has become a synonym for homosexuality. While there were certainly other evils existing in this community, sodomy was prominent. These people became so depraved it was necessary for God to destroy the cities