

## **Apologetics: Love and Homosexuality**

Pastor Mark Alvis

Christians are called by God to love all people. According to James 2:8, loving our neighbor as ourselves is the royal law of the Bible. Because all Christians know that we ourselves are sinners, saved by God's grace through faith in Christ alone, we should not have holier than thou attitudes toward anyone. However, there are fundamental truths that God has given mankind, that if not honored by all, can negatively affect all.

**Psalm 24:1**, "The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Therefore, God is King and His Moral Law is the standard of right and wrong for everyone.

**Romans 2:14-15**, "For when Gentiles, who do not have the [written] law, by nature do what the law requires . . . <sup>15</sup> They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts [conscience] . . ."

**Romans 3:19-20**, "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God."

In the name of tolerance and political correctness – many people are championing diversity, even when diversity includes rejecting God's standards of right and wrong. That kind of diversity greatly damages our society because it requires us to embrace the false worldview of relativism [there is no right or wrong]. Has this ever been tried? **Judges 21:25**, "In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes." According to Deuteronomy 17:18-20, a king's job was to rule by the moral standards of right and wrong contained in God's Law. How well did it work for Israel when everyone did what they wanted? Ryan Anderson tells us in his book Truth Overruled,

"Freedom untethered from truth is freedom's worst enemy. For if there is only your truth and my truth, and neither one of us recognizes a transcendent moral standard . . . call it "the truth" [or God's Moral Law]

. . . then the only way to settle an argument is for you to impose your power on me, or for me to impose my power on you. Freedom untethered from truth leads to chaos; chaos leads to anarchy; and since human beings cannot tolerate anarchy – tyranny . . . is just around the corner. [Freedom untethered from truth] . . . leads first to freedom’s decay, and then to freedom’s demise” [death].

For a number of years now, we have been told that sexual immorality, particularly among homosexuals, is to be respected and celebrated. God’s standards of morality have now been labeled “outdated” and “psychologically harmful”.

What is God’s will concerning our sexuality?

**I Thessalonians 4:3**, “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality.”

When is sexual intercourse appropriate and right?

**Hebrews 13:4**, “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will **judge** the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”

Unrepentant sexual immorality results in God’s judgment. Why? Because God created sex for the permanent relationship of marriage between a man and woman. One of the fruits of marital love is children, and children do best in a stable, loving home, with a father and mother committed to one another and to their welfare. Children conceived out of wedlock, face many harmful obstacles – even if they escape abortion.

What else does God tell us about sexual immorality?

**I Corinthians 6:13**, “. . . The body is not meant for sexual immorality. . .”  
What happens when people ignore that truth?

**I Corinthians 6:18**, “Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins

against his own body.” What do you suppose Paul is referring to in that statement?

If I steal, I will probably not get a disease. But if I am sexually promiscuous, I greatly increase the probability of getting venereal diseases. Because of widespread sexual immorality, venereal diseases are at epidemic levels for both heterosexuals and homosexuals.

**I Corinthians 6:16**, speaks of another problem attached to sexual immorality that is not often talked about,

“Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, ‘The two will become one flesh.’”

God did not make sex for casual relationships. It is meant for the permanent relationship of marriage between a man and a woman. There is an emotional, spiritual bonding that takes place when a man and woman come together sexually. And when a person has sex with someone – and then walks away, both people leave something of themselves behind.

Let’s talk more specifically about homosexuality.

**Romans 1:21-27**, “For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened . . .<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another . . .<sup>26</sup> Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.<sup>27</sup> In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.”

We have just heard what the Apostle Paul says about homosexuality, but did Jesus ever speak about it? Listen to what Christ says in these verses,

**Matthew 5:17**, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the

Prophets . . . .” What does the Law say about homosexuality?

**Leviticus 18:22**, “Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.” Jesus agrees with that.

**Matthew 15:19-20**, “For out of the heart come evil thoughts . . . adultery, sexual immorality [which includes homosexuality] . . . .<sup>20</sup> These are what make a man unclean . . . .”

**Matthew 19:5**, “For this reason [marriage] a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” God defines marriage as one man, one woman becoming one flesh for life.

The Apostle Paul speaks about homosexual conduct as perversion. Most people in the United States are quite naive about what goes on in the homosexual lifestyle. I am not going to get into the details, but you adults need to Google the following terms: rimming [which 80 percent of homosexuals regularly practice – as do some heterosexuals], fisting and water sports. When you find out the meaning of those terms, then you will know that perversion is the proper word for the Apostle Paul to use.

The Christian worldview is that we are to love people, but hate sinful practices that hurt people. Even honest non-Christians have tried to tell us about the darkness in the homosexual lifestyle. In their book, Homosexualities: A Study of Diversity Among Men and Women, published by the **Kinsey Institute for Research on Sex, Gender, and Reproduction** – Alan Bell and Martin Weinberg report that only 9 percent of all practicing homosexuals [men] have had less than 25 sexual partners in their lifetimes. 43 percent of homosexuals have had more than 500 partners, and 28 percent have reported more than 1,000. [AIDS was first discovered within that last group, but has since spread]. Only 2 percent of active homosexuals are involved in a monogamous relationship, defined as ten or fewer lifetime sexual partners. Of the very few homosexual “marriages” that exist, half of the partners cheat, and the average length of such marriages is less than two years.

It is important to note that a large number of people with homosexual desires – do *not* participate in homosexual activities, but instead lead a chaste lifestyle. I have a missionary friend, who has led hundreds of people to Christ. He has homosexual tendencies, but has not acted out on those desires. He has remained single. If he had gone into the homosexual lifestyle, he would have been dead about thirty years ago. Here is why I say that. Recent health studies have shown that homosexuals are 23 times more likely than heterosexuals to contract venereal diseases, including a syphilis rate 1,400% higher than heterosexuals.

The **Family Research Institute** analyzed and summarized lifespan data found in the obituaries of one of the largest homosexual newspapers in the United States – the *Washington Blade* – from March 21, 1986 to April 19, 1991. Here is what they found: the median lifespan of a homosexual with AIDS was 39, and the median lifespan of the homosexuals who died of *other* causes was 43. Of the total of 644 homosexual deaths listed, only five were aged 65 or older. That is 1 percent, compared to 73 percent of all males in our general population who live to the age of 65. Of the 260 deaths among those homosexuals in a “marriage relationship,” the median age was 37. This shows that homosexual marriages do not prolong a homosexual’s lifespan. It is the perverted activities they engage in that kill them.

The median age of death among lesbians was 45. The average lifespan of women in our general population is 75. This means that lesbians give up three decades of their lives in order to practice that lifestyle. If I was an atheist, and I cared about people, I would be against the homosexual lifestyle – simply on the basis of health and safety.

The National Lesbian-Gay Health Foundation found that homosexuals are three times as likely as heterosexuals to have an alcohol or drug abuse problem. They are 87 times more likely to be murdered [often by domestic partners and other homosexuals]; 25 times more apt to commit suicide; and 18 times more likely to die in a traffic accident! Don’t ask me why on that last one. All of these factors, and many others, combine to carve decades off the lifespans of active homosexuals.

Are practicing homosexuals living longer with the discovery of new drugs and treatments? I would predict that if they are, it will only be a matter of time before new diseases, that are resistant to current drugs, will emerge and shorten lifespans again.

Question: Is homosexuality a mental disease? That was the contention when I was young. But what was the civil penalty for practicing homosexuality in the Old Testament? Leviticus 20:13 says it was death. However, it required two witnesses to convict anyone of any crime. Therefore, if homosexuality was practiced in the seclusion of a home, it would be difficult to convict anyone of homosexual practices. And even if it was proven – homosexual activity could be repented of and the guilty pair could redeem their lives by paying a substitute penalty [Exodus 21:28-30; Numbers 35:30-33].

But I still conclude that because God said unrepentant homosexual conduct deserved a death penalty, it means that homosexual activity is not in the category of a disease or mental disorder. God never said that people with leprosy or mental retardation, should be put to death. Leprosy is a disease, not a sin. Homosexual acts however, are sinful, which is why a homosexual lifestyle shortens a person's physical life – and if not repented of, leads to eternal death [I Corinthians 6:9-11].

Question: Is homosexuality hereditary? Aren't some people born right-handed and some left-handed – and some are born heterosexual and some homosexual? If homosexuality is passed on through the genes, then homosexuality should have become extinct long ago – since homosexuals do not produce children, and therefore do not pass their “homosexual gene” on to others.

God's command for mankind to be fruitful and multiply – has never been rescinded. Homosexuality and abortion are diametrically apposed to that command. And yet our civil laws demand that we support and even celebrate those practices.

When the United States Supreme Court declared same-sex marriages to be

legal and protected under law, John Piper wrote the following,

“My sense is that we do not realize what a calamity is happening around us. The new thing – new for America, and new for history – is not homosexuality . . . What’s new is not even the celebration and approval of homosexual sin. Homosexual behavior has been exploited, and reveled in, and celebrated in art, for millennia. What’s new is normalization and institutionalization. This is the new calamity.”

Who can tell me about Lemmings? They are rodents that live in the Arctic and Alpine regions in the Northern hemisphere. They are particularly plentiful in Scandinavian countries, where their migration habits are legendary. In their migrations, vast numbers of Lemmings will kill themselves by attempting to cross wide rivers, large lakes and even swim into the ocean, thinking they can cross it. What would you think if large crowds of people gathered in order to cheer the lemmings on as they entered the water to eventually drown? Would you call that kind or unkind? Loving or unloving?

Because I know the deep regrets and shortened lifespans of the homosexual lifestyle, I always think of lemmings when I hear of Gay Pride Parades. People who consider themselves very enlightened and loving, crowd the streets in order cheer gay people on – as they head over a cliff that will take decades off their lifespans and if not repented of, will condemn them to hell. I do not consider the cheering crowds to be kind or loving.

In every Gay Pride Parade, there are people marching for the right to practice polyamory, pedophilia, polygamy, and bestiality – which we still oppose in the United States. I wonder how much longer we will? When we embrace and celebrate homosexuality, how can we logically appose all those other sexually deviant behaviors? We cannot cite that the Bible apposes these behaviors – because the Bible no longer counts. We cannot contend that these practices are wrong because they are against nature and our consciences – because so is homosexuality. Without repentance, it is just a matter of time before we normalize all of those deviant behaviors.