

The Biblical View Concerning Homosexuality – Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.

Homosexuality can only be properly considered in the broader context of a biblical understanding of human sexuality in general. The creation account set out in the opening chapters of Genesis reveals the following truths:

- (a) that we are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27)
- (b) that God created us both male and female (Gen. 1:27)
- (c) that this difference of sexes is part of the divine plan for the human race (Gen. 1:27)
- (d) that to meet Adam's needs and prevent him from becoming lonely, God created a woman, *not* a second man (Gen. 2:21, 22)
- (e) that sexual union leading to one-flesh relationship is intended to be only between male and female (Gen. 2:23, 24-25; Rom. 1:26-32)
- (f) that such union is intended to be in the setting of a permanent and publicly acknowledged relationship forming the basis of a new family unit (Gen 2:24).
- (g) that the God intended purpose of marriage whereby two became one flesh was that His created pair would generate many godly children – marriage was designed to be the vehicle through which the family unit consisting of the husband, wife, and children would be founded and established (Gen 1:28; Mal 2:14-15)

The Bible thus teaches that God's intention for mankind is that society should be ordered on the basis of lifelong, legally sanctioned, heterosexual unions. Such unions (marriages) lead to the formation of social units (families) which provide the optimal environment in which human nurture and development – especially during childhood – may take place.

Of course same-sex friendships can be enriching, Christ-honoring relationships and bring joy through mutual companionship and sharing. However same-sex relationships that are genitally expressed are unacceptable according to the teaching of Scripture. Moreover, God refers to them as "abominations". Attempts to establish or promote such relationships as viable alternatives to heterosexually-based family life do not conform to God's will for society

The Holy Scriptures teach that the origin of the homosexual orientation is not a mystery. It is a willful and sinfully rebellious choice – it is not the result of an inherited bent. Moreover, they teach that all are accountable for their actions. Homosexual conduct, like heterosexual conduct, is controllable and must be judged therefore in the light of scriptural teaching.

Scripture is clear that the power of grace that comes from above is sufficient to enable one to maintain a lifestyle pleasing to God, including a lifestyle built upon celibacy and self-restraint for those who are not married.

Finally, Scripture uniformly condemns homosexual practices by direct comment (Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:26; 1 Cor. 6:9; Tim. 1: 10) and also by clearly implied disapproval (Gen. 19:1-29; Judges 19:1-30; Peter 2:1-22; Jude 3-23). The Bible treats such practices as self-evidently abnormal, wicked, perverted, and sinful. Homosexual practices reject both the obvious implications of human physiology and the potential for procreation. Romans chapter 1 declares homosexual acts as a symptom of a deeper refusal to accept the organizing scheme of God for the created order (Rom. 1:23-25).