



The Curse of Sodom

Lesson Subject: Homosexual practices are abominable sin from which one can be delivered.

L24. Date: May 1984. **Text:** Romans 1:24-27; Jude 7-10, 22-23.

Topic: Homosexuality.

Homosexuality is an affectional attraction to or an active sexual relation with a person of the same sex, whether male or female. The term gay is commonly employed to refer to a homosexual person (male or female) and his sexual conduct.

Homosexuality has become a major problem. Those who follow that practice vote together as a political bloc, and some public officials are “running scared” of their power. “Gay bars,” “gay beauty contests,” and even “gay churches” are becoming common.

What should be the Christian's attitude? The Bible is the authority in answering that question. The Christian cannot approve what God forbids in Scripture without coming under His judgment. Someone has said, “What God forbids is never to be done; what He commands is always our duty.” Our response to Scripture is a response to God himself.

These lesson comments will show on the basis of Bible teaching: Homosexuality is an immoral perversion which God condemns. Therefore, churches should refuse fellowship in membership with a practicing homosexual and government should punish by law those who commit such a crime.

Keep the central truth of this study in mind: “Homosexual practices are abominable sin from which one can be delivered.”

I. PROOF OF PERVERSION

Homosexuality is not “an alternate life-style” based on one's “sexual preference.” It is a perversion of the God-intended design and purpose of human sexuality.

A. Humans were created for heterosexual (male and female) union. That is why God “*made them male and female*” (Matthew 19:4; Genesis 1:27; 2:7, 21-23). That is why “*they twain shall be one flesh*” (Matthew 19:5; Genesis 2:24). That is why male-female sexual union is “*natural*” (Romans 1:27) and homosexuality is “*that which is against nature*” (Romans 1:26). Any sexual expression other than the normal male-female is a distorted condition which perverts God's original intent.

B. Homosexuality has always been under the judgment of God. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone because of their homosexual life-style (Genesis 19). They suffered “*the vengeance of eternal fire*” (Jude 7) because of “*their unlawful deeds*” (II Peter 2:8) of sexual perversion. The tribe of Benjamin was almost exterminated by the other tribes of Israel because of a homosexual “*folly that they have wrought in Israel*” (Judges 20:10). God's law has not changed!

Individual acts of homosexuality received the death penalty in ancient Israel, a penalty which God himself set (Leviticus 18:22-30; Deuteronomy 23:17, 18). That law has not been changed!

C. The New Testament reinforces the strict teaching of the Old Testament, recognizing “*that they which commit such things are worthy of death*” (Romans 1:32). Some may speak of “Christian gays” but there is no more Christian homosexuality than there is Christian rape, Christian adultery, or Christian incest.

D. Homosexuality is a perversion of nature, a sin against God, and a crime against the state. No one is “born that way.” It is not a hereditary condition. Medical science can discover no chemical imbalance or chromosome defect to explain it that way. It is not an irreversible condition or “a cross to be borne.” It is a sinful choice which perverts God's design and must be cast away in commitment to God.

II. CAUSE OF PERVERSION

Romans 1:18-24 shows exactly why sexual perversion has risen among mankind. It comes because God's revelation is rejected (Romans 1:21). The revelation God gave to humanity by a divine act, and through creation as

well, is easily understood. But when people reject that revelation of God, they experience spiritual darkness and turn to all sorts of sin.

Three things happen. (1) God's revelation is rejected (verse 21). (2) God's person is perverted to make Him appear less than He is (verse 23). (3) God's patience is exhausted and He surrenders the sinners to be controlled by their lusts with the result that they dishonor their bodies between themselves (verse 24).

The cause of homosexuality, therefore, is neither physical nor psychological; it is spiritual. Homosexuality is the direct result of sinful rebellion against God.

III. EXPRESSIONS OF PERVERSION

A. Perversion is expressed in uncontrolled lust (verse 24). Every unclean and spiritually impure sexual vice devised by the human mind is practiced when lust is uncontrolled. Some practices might not even be considered a sex act, yet are followed in the perversion. They are too unspeakable to print.

B. Perversion is expressed in the sexual abuse of the body (verse 24). Those who engage in deviant sexual behavior degrade and dishonor their bodies.

C. Perversion is expressed in emphasis on the earthy and sensual to the rejection of the heavenly and spiritual (verse 25). What the body wants is more important to such a person than what God requires. It is a form of idolatry.

D. Perversion is expressed when control is surrendered to depraved lust (verse 26). Shameful, disgraceful, dishonorable passions rule the lives of those who are given to sexual sin. That perverts what God intended in putting such passions in humans.

E. Perversion is expressed when the sex act is changed (verses 26, 27). The perversion includes both lesbianism (verse 26) and homosexuality (verse 27). Both forms of sexual acts are unnatural and perverted.

F. Perversion is expressed by the sufferings which come upon uncontrolled lust (verse 27). Lust that is satisfied only increases its demand until one is consumed with fiercely burning passion which results in wild excesses of sin.

How differently God designed sex to be! He intended it to be a blessing, not a curse. He intended it to be an expression of holy love, not a satisfaction of selfish lust. Any form of homosexual relations is a perversion.

IV. JUDGMENT ON PERVERSION

A. God's judgment on perversion is illustrated in the record of Sodom and Gomorrah (Jude 7). He did not permit the cities to continue in existence because of their "alternate life-style" which permitted sexual perversion to run wild. Be warned that His laws have not changed.

B. God's judgment on perversion is based on the seriousness of the sin (Jude 8). It stems from corrupt thoughts (verse 8) which produce corrupt acts (verse 8) and corrupt speech (verses 8-10; Ephesians 5:3-6). That merits and receives His most severe condemnation.

C. God's judgment of sin comes because the behavior in homosexuality is below the level of the animals. It defiles a person by degrading him to such a state (verse 10). Such acts deserve the full and severe judgment of God, which they will receive.

V. DANGERS OF PERVERSION

Homosexuality is dangerous to society. Articles highlighting the public hazards of that life-style include *Science*, *Time*, *the Saturday Evening Post*, *the New England Journal of Medicine*, *the Journal of the American Medical Association*, *the Western Journal of Medicine*, *the American Journal of Nursing*, and *Newsweek*. Both medical and psychological experts sound an alarm.

A. Physiological dangers are most evident. Homosexuals constitute only 4 percent of the total population of the nation, but they suffer serious diseases at the following rates: 66 percent of all homosexuals have at least one venereal disease; 49 percent of all syphilis in the United States is carried by them; they have a rate of infectious hepatitis eight to twenty-five times higher than heterosexual males; they suffer from AIDS at a rate of 361 times that of non-homosexuals. Every AIDS victim in 1979 is now dead; half the 1981 victims have died also.

Those diseases can be transferred apart from sexual contact. The *New England Journal of Medicine* reports homosexual food handlers in public restaurants were the cause of an outbreak of amebiasis and hepatitis A infections in San Francisco and Minneapolis. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* reports a case of AIDS transferred from an uncle to his

nephew apart from sexual contact, but through simple contacts with close family living. Homosexuality is a public health menace.

The public is inviting public health disaster as well as promotion of a lifestyle that is injurious to its participants when it permits homosexuality to go unregulated.

B. Child molestation is a major problem. Studies show that a homosexual teacher is forty-three times more likely to molest a pupil than a heterosexual teacher. In fact, a 1980 study in New York City revealed that 48 percent of all homosexuals admitted they had molested at least six children, and most confess to having molested at least one minor since they were age twenty-one.

C. Other acts of violence and perversion are common.

Homosexuality is associated with prostitution four hundred times more frequently for men and forty times for women. Bestiality is at least 300 percent more frequent among homosexuals. Sadism is at least 300 percent more frequent. Masochism is at least 800 percent more frequent among homosexuals. And homosexuals are both more frequently suicidal and homicidal. No wonder God called it perversion and pronounced the death penalty upon it.

VI. CONVERSION OF PERVERTS

Sex perverts need our compassion, witness, and prayers (Jude 22). They are not beyond God's gracious offer of forgiveness and power to cleanse. Christians make a great mistake in deserting them as "hopeless cases." Their sins must not be approved or excused (Jude 23), but they can be forgiven.

The Christian's attitude toward homosexuals must be the same as his attitude toward prostitutes, adulterers, or any other sinner. It is to such people that the gospel was sent. Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance (Matthew 9:13). God promises, "*Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow*" (Isaiah I: 18). Homosexuality is not the unpardonable sin, praise God! It is listed in I Corinthians 6:9 with the note, "*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 6:11).

Let the sex-pervert know that even as contemptible as his sin is to God and man, he can receive forgiveness and deliverance by repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. What is homosexuality?
2. Why is it a perversion?
3. What causes one to become homosexual?
4. Why does God condemn it?
5. What judgment did He send on it in Bible times?
6. Why is it a threat to the non-homosexual?
7. What makes it a sin against God?
8. What makes it a crime against the state?
9. How can the homosexual be delivered from his sin?
10. What is our Christian duty toward a homosexual?