

## Homosexual Love?

By Charles Fry

*“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)*

It is difficult to have a reasonable discussion of homosexuality, because of all the rhetoric in our times coloring and disguising the issues. To describe homosexual acts as wrong or sinful invites being labeled homophobic, or bigoted, or worse. Many notions about homosexuality have been advanced, and even become accepted as common knowledge, which are not fact-based but represent romantic idealism, wishful thinking, or outright deception rather than honest information.

The notion of homosexual fidelity for example is talked up, as though it is, or could be common, but is not supported by much evidence of “long term committed relationships.” People assert that God doesn’t condemn homosexual acts, but this is certainly not the case. The idea that homosexuality is a product of one’s genes-- “just born that way”--

is touted, but there is little data to support the conclusion, and no unambiguous data at all. The numbers estimating the percentage of homosexuals in the population are often drastically exaggerated.

However, we’ve had more than thirty years of increasingly strident propaganda promoting homosexual acts as normal and beyond reproach in the public media and popular entertainment. The evidence and symptoms that once defined homosexuality as a damaging “disorder” in psychology textbooks didn’t change, it was simply discarded, and the diagnosis and treatment rejected. Nevertheless, homosexuality is still dangerous and self-destructive--spiritually, physically, and psychologically. It is still wrong, and should be resisted by all who are attracted to it. Homosexuality still keeps company with numerous health, behavior and attitude problems.

There is no question that the Bible consistently condemns homosexual behavior, by men or women. Romans 1:26-27\* describes the proliferation of homosexuality as one part of the progression of degradation that mankind, apart from God, sinks into. Jude and Peter refer to the acts performed in Sodom and Gomorrah as “*sexual immorality*”, “[going] *after strange flesh*”, “*filthy conduct*” and “*lawless deeds*” (Jude 7\*; 2 Peter 2:6-8\*). The Law of Moses condemned homosexual acts as “*an abomination*” with a penalty of death (Leviticus 20:13\*). Keeping perspective though, we should realize that the same general passages in context can also be used to discuss God’s condemnation of disrespect

for parents and rejection of authority (actually these are closely related themes: Romans 1:30; Jude 8-10; 2 Peter 2:10; Leviticus 20:9).

The prophet Malachi wrote: “*Yet you say, ‘For what reason?’ Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. ‘For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one’s garment with violence,’ Says the LORD of hosts. ‘Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously’” (Malachi 2:14-16). God’s design for mankind, from the beginning, included a design for the family, a man and woman joined together in a faithful relationship, producing godly offspring. Homosexual partnerships, of course, cannot conform to this design. There are many ways to deviate from the design, including homosexuality, infidelity and divorce. Any variation from the design is going to carry consequences that affect body, mind, and spirit, whether people like it or not. Every moral choice also has widespread effects on relatives, friends, associates, and ultimately the whole culture and world.*

Paul pictures a marriage between a man and a woman as a healthy way of avoiding the temptations of immorality (1 Corinthians 7:1-7). Homosexual partnerships cannot be described in the same way. Rather

(as in the references already mentioned), homosexuals are pictured as yielding to lust, not avoiding it, or triumphing over it. In the same letter, Paul spoke of the exclusion of “adulterers”, “homosexuals” and “sodomites” along with others from the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9).

Paul also wrote about a man in a sexual relationship with his stepmother (his father’s wife, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5). Paul didn’t wonder whether the man and his stepmother “loved” each other. Their choice of relationship was intolerable and terribly destructive. It was wrong, and should have prompted grief, not acceptance (see Leviticus 20:11). Whether they were adults, whether they were “in love”, whether they were otherwise decent people, none of that legitimized a forbidden and unacceptable relationship, a relationship that defied morals, undermined respect for authority, and perverted the family design. Immorality of any kind cannot be justified by feelings, good or bad. This will always be true of homosexual acts, whether in short-term or long-term relationships, no matter what efforts are made to normalize attitudes toward them. We shouldn’t single out homosexual sins to the exclusion of other sins, but homosexuality is clearly wrong, and like any sin, very destructive to all who embrace it.

**Scriptures cited:**

• Romans 1:26-27- *“For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the*

*natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”*

• Jude 7- *“as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”*

• 2 Peter 2:6-8- *“and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)”*

• Leviticus 20:13- *“If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.”*

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