

SAME-SEX LOVE - SAME-SEX SEX WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

(Text of the leaflet prepared for the Cardiff Mardi Gras 2nd September 2006. Well over a thousand were given out until a 'Minorities Support Unit' officer, one Inspector Chad, objected and told Christian Voice activists to stop. Stephen Green, National Director of Christian Voice, continued to give out the leaflets and was arrested and charged with a public order offence.)

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This is a leaflet for open-minded people in general, and gays and lesbians in particular, discussing what the Bible says about same-sex love and same-sex sex. Most of us want to be right with God and although salvation is His free gift, the wages of sin is still death. So getting right with God might mean changing our views and even our lifestyle.

There can be no doubt about it, spirituality and religious faith are important issues, so what do Christians believe, and how does Jesus Christ become more than a swear-word in someone's life? We try to explain that Jesus Christ can release you not just from the stain of sin but from the power of sin. Men and women have walked away from all kinds of sinful lifestyles and become free from destructive desires. You can't do it, but Christ can. May God bless you as you try to find His purpose for your life.

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Does the Bible condemn same-sex love? Let's see: "And Esau ran to meet (Jacob) and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him; and they wept." (Genesis 33:4) That's love between two people of the same sex, two brothers in fact. "And Ruth said (to Naomi) 'Whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, there I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God'." (Ruth 1:16) That's love between two women, Ruth and her mother-in-law.

More same-sex love

It's much the same in the New Testament. Remember the parable of the prodigal son? He went away from home and wasted everything. Finally, he came to his senses, and went home expecting to be treated as a servant: "And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." (Luke 15:20-24) So there's love in the Bible between a father and his son, who are of the same sex.

What about same-sex sex?

So if same-sex love is OK, same-sex sex is OK as an expression of that, is it? Well, no, actually. In a chapter forbidding adultery, incest, child sacrifice and bestiality, the Bible also says this: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind: it is abomination." (Lev 18:22) That's the passage Sir Ian McKellen tore out of the Bible, as he couldn't stand it being there. But it doesn't get any better in the New Testament. The Apostle Paul writes about people "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 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 recompence of their error which was meet." (Romans 1:25-27) So same-sex sex is sin. No argument.

So why is same-sex sex wrong?

So why is same-sex love OK, but same-sex sex isn't? Two reasons. First, in our examples of same-sex love, it's within the family. Same-sex sex would be incest. You'll talk about 'our gay brothers' or 'our lesbian sisters'

proving the point. Second, sex in the Bible is between a man and a woman in marriage: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they shall be one flesh." (Gen 2:24) The parts of the body involved are designed to fit perfectly. Men and women are complementary - made for each other and in particular, made to have sexual intercourse with each other. A man cannot be 'one flesh' with another man, or a woman be 'one flesh' with another woman.

What did Jesus say?

In His time on earth, Jesus said nothing about same-sex sex, nothing about incest, nothing about child sacrifice and nothing about bestiality. He didn't need to. As He is 'God-the-Son', He had already written the law. But when He spoke about sex, it was to quote exactly that passage from Genesis about heterosexual 'one flesh' and then to rule against no-fault divorce. Jesus taught heterosexuality. He told people to keep the Old Testament commandments. He also claimed to be God and to be able to forgive sin. There is no sin so big He cannot forgive it once you confess it, and no life that cannot be redeemed. By faith in Jesus it is even possible to be healed of homosexual desires. No-one has to stay gay. How you became homosexual may not have been a matter of choice - but you do have a choice as to whether you continue in a lifestyle which leads to hell, or whether you decide to put yourself right with God through belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.

What do Christians believe?

Christians believe that God is the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth. He is entirely self-existent and the divine intelligence behind all creation, including us. Since God created us, He needed to lay down the laws by which we should live. Jesus Christ upheld those laws. When He said "Keep the Commandments", he spoke against worshipping material things instead of God, against blasphemy, disrespect to parents and those in authority, against murder, adultery, stealing, lying, envy, and, yes, same-sex sex.

We can't keep Commandments!

The trouble is, we can't live up to Jesus's example, because we are born with a nature prone to sin. We have all done wrong by His standards, so we are all out of fellowship with God. God is loving and merciful. He wants fellowship with mankind, but as He is also righteous and holy, our sin prevents it. How can a holy God forgive our sin and restore us to a right relationship with Him?

A bit of good news for a change

By being born in a stable in order to become the ultimate once-for-all sacrifice, that's how. Jesus Christ went to the cross to reconcile all who would believe in Him back to God. If sin is like a ravine separating us from God, the Lord Jesus is the bridge over it. That's why His crucifixion is so important. He took our sins upon Him, and those who trust in Him are totally forgiven. But it did not end there. Jesus rose from the dead by His own power and Christians live in His risen life, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Even more, Jesus ascended back into heaven, and God has given Him the right to rule over all the kingdoms of the world. One day Jesus Christ will return in judgment, to condemn the wicked and justify the righteous. How will you stand in that day? What excuse will you give? I didn't know? That won't wash. You know now.

'I am the way' says Jesus

Jesus told the parable of the Prodigal Son to show that however far we go away from God, He will still welcome us back if we recognise our sin and are ready to put things right with Him through Jesus. Homosexuality is not the unforgivable sin, but 'all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.' If you realise how far you are away from God, know that Jesus, the Messiah, has the power to forgive you and give you a new life. Turn from your sins, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Do that today, because you could die tomorrow. You can't cover your own sin, and there is no other way to heaven. Jesus Christ said: "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." He also said: "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."