

Remember my sermon from last week? “How to interpret the bible?”

I explained how we use four main tools to interpret the Scriptures.

1. Science/reason
2. Experience- ours and others
3. Tradition- the church, family, community
4. Bible- Holy Scripture

Basically I said- USE YOUR GOD GIVEN BRAINS

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So let's start. When we begin to look at homosexuality in the Bible there are a few verses/stories we need to pay attention to.

The first story, and the most common, Genesis 19- Sodom and Gomorrah.

The real story- gang rape, offering of Lot's daughters and then his daughter's having sex with their dad.

Traditional Jewish interpretation of this Scripture. This sin was greed, gluttony and rudeness.

Read: Ezekiel 16: 49 – 50

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Leviticus 18: 22 and 20: 13

Deuteronomy 23: 17

“Thou shalt not lie with a man as you do with a woman, it is an abomination”

There are other prohibitions in this set of laws- however all of them have been discarded as being “cultural” and no longer applicable to our day and times. Why do we accept these laws as cultural and not homosexuality? Some of these include:-

- No eating pork, shell fish, lobster.
- No wearing clothes that have more than one material- i.e. not polyester and cotton blend.
- Women who have their periods are unholy- cannot attend church, and if you touch me I become unclean.
- Kill children who are disobedient.
- Kill anyone who commits adultery.

This scripture is most often interpreted as actually referring to pedistry or temple prostitution, it was designed to set the Israelites apart. But the main point is that most of the law codes in Deuteronomy are dismissed as being cultural, mostly because Jesus

came to fulfill the law, so that we are saved. BUT- everyone points to this one as one that should be obeyed.

Christian conservatives will tell you that man on man sex is an abomination, but they won't point out the same set of Scriptures that forbids a man from having sex with a woman who is menstruating.

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Now we move onto the New Testament:-

Note: the word homosexual is not in the bible, and was not actually created until the late 1869 by Karl-Maria Kertbeny.

Traditional interpretations of what we now see as "homosexual" in the Bible, used to be *pedestry* or pedophilia.

For example:

In 1 Cor 6:9 and 1 Tim 1: 10 you will find Paul speaking against homosexuality. But, the word homosexual didn't exist before the 1800's.

So what words was used for 1800 years before hand.

Well the original Greek words are-

Malakos- "soft"

Arsenokoitai- "male-bed"

Both these words were interpreted to mean pedestry.

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Now the last and perhaps the most problematic-

Romans 1: 26 – 27

Let me point out 4 last things.

1. Folks will try to tell you what is natural. Claiming that the natural order of things is heterosexuality. Well heterosexuality is just one of nature's many diversities. Example- geese, penguins and dolphins are just some of the animals that mate for life with the same gender. Talk about shrimp, in Alaska we have a shrimp that in the second half of it's life changes sex, we see in nature that even gender is not a fixed reality.

2. Some people would just say throw the Bible away when it says bad things- like women should be subject to their husbands, slavery is ordained by God, and children who are

disobedient should be killed- and the homosexual scriptures. Should we throw the scriptures away- or try to understand them?

3. Remember there are over 300 Scriptures that speak about heterosexual sexual relationships but only 5 that supposedly speak about homosexuals. (JOKE: God loves heterosexuals just as much as homosexuals- heterosexuals just need a lot more supervision).

4. Jesus never spoke about homosexuality and when he was asked what one had to do to enter the dominion of heaven- he said, Love God and love your neighbor as yourself.