

Homosexual Lifestyle

I. Homosexuality is a Sin

A. It is a detestable sin in the eyes of the Lord (Lev 18:22; 29)

1. Don't let them get away with thinking that this was not their choice. Many will claim that they were either born this way, or had no choice but to live this lifestyle.

2. Homosexuality is a result of one's own desire (James 1:13-15).

B. God gives people over to this sin (Rom 1:26, 27)

C. The one who practices homosexuality will not enter the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9, 10).

II. The Homosexual needs to be saved

A. The gospel is not for the righteous but the unrighteous (Luke 5:31).

B. It is only by grace that they are saved (Eph 2:8, 9). They need to learn that they can do nothing to earn God's love. Many lived for so long trying to please others that it will be a hard pattern to break. Watch out that they are not doing "good works" to please you or to try to please God.

C. The one living in sin can be saved. They are not too bad for God to save them. They need to keep in mind that Christ died for the ungodly (Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 6:9-11).

III. The one who has homosexual tendencies needs to know how to live the Christ-Centered life.

A. Radical amputation needs to take place (Matt 5:29, 30).

1. They must get cut off everything related to their former life.

2. They will need creativity to find ways to carry this out.
- B. Their identity is found in Christ not in their former manner of life. Who ever is in Christ is a *new* creation (2 Cor 5:17).
 - C. The process of Sanctification needs to be ingrained in them (Eph 4:22-24).
 1. Put off the old man (one time act done by God at salvation)
 2. Be renewed in their minds (continual process – God’s enabling and human responsibility)
 3. Put on the new man (one time act done by God at salvation)
 4. They are to be continually putting off sin and putting on righteousness (Eph 4:25-32; Col 3:5-14).
 - D. They need to bear fruit in keeping with their repentance (Matt 3:8)
- IV. They need to know the purpose for marriage (Gen 2:23, 24).
- A. One man and one woman.
 - B. The purpose of marriage is companionship (Gen 2:18). They have lived their whole life seeking pleasure that they need to know that marriage involves giving of oneself to the other person.
 - C. Teach what is biblical masculinity and femininity.
- V. Don’t focus only on the issue of homosexuality. Help them see their heart issues and address other areas of sin that need to be worked on. Help them understand their heart. This sin is only one of many that will need to be addressed in counseling.

1. Leviticus 18:22

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

This passage is very clear to all who read it. It is amazing how many people can misunderstand the real meaning, or even claim that this is no longer applicable. The first step is the recognition of this as sin. Homosexuality is a sin and there is no way around it. One of the laws given in the Old Testament by Moses was that a man is not to lie down with a man as with a woman. This is an abomination to the Lord. What this means is that a man (or woman) is not to have a sexual, physical, or even an emotional relationship as he would with a woman (or a man). This is not to take place because it is an abomination to the Lord. In verse 24 we learn that it is for this and several other sexual sins that God is removing people from this land. This act of homosexuality is a detestable thing to the Lord. The word could also be translated “idol.” To practice this act is idolatrous to God. This act is un-natural and is in complete defiance to God’s plan for the family from the beginning of time. The one in a homosexual relationship needs to understand that God is degusted by this. This is an idol that they are worshipping and it needs to be stopped.

2. James 1:13-15

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

There are many people who, when they are temped, want to blame God. This must have been happening in the early church because James was refuting this claim. We cannot allow our

counselors to think that God is the cause of their temptations and sins. James says that no one can tempt God and God cannot tempt anyone. Why would God want to tempt His people into sinning against Himself? The answer is that He wouldn't. James also points out that because of our sinful nature, each person is tempted because of the desires that are ruling their heart. He lures himself away and is enticed by what he wants more than God. The word "lured" means to be dragged away by something and the word "enticed" means to be aroused by interest. James uses a fishing analogy here to show that being deceived into sin is like a fish enticed by the bait and then dragged away once it is caught. The interesting thing is that the person is dragging himself away. No one is doing it to him. The homosexual does not need someone to tempt him. His desires are so strong that he lures himself away. He is not forced to sin. No one can be forced to sin. Many times the homosexual will claim that it was not their choice but that they were born that way or that they had no choice because of their past. This is not true. They are lured away by their own lustful desires for self satisfaction and pleasure. James continues on and says that when this desire has been conceived it gives birth to sin. This life of sin brings about death. Sin has a way of deceiving. It looks good and sounds like nothing bad will happen, but once desires draw someone away, sin is the main characteristic of this person's life. The ultimate consequence of sin is death, separation from God. This will be the end of all unbelievers. There are consequences for sin, even for the believer, and the homosexual must be told what they are. Their temptations are caused by their own lustful desires which eventually, if not stopped, will lead to death.

3. Romans 1:26, 27

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise

gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Paul, in Romans 1 is giving the reasons for God's wrath. There are a number of sins being portrayed and the sin of homosexuality is among them. In this passage Paul is explaining how God has given people up to their dishonorable passions. There has come a time when people rebel against God so much, that He will step back and let them live without any restraint. This is how the homosexual lives. They worship the creation rather than the Creator. The women and men have been given over to their sinful passions to fulfill whatever they desire. It is clear that these are not believers that Paul is talking about. The unbeliever has no desire to love God, but to do whatever feels good. The homosexual act is unnatural for God did not create it that way. His plan was for a man and a woman. However, people full of passion have distorted God's plan and now commit shameful acts. They do not go unpunished though. God says that because they do this, they have received the penalty that they deserved for their sin. It is a punishment that is necessary to happen because it is an *error*, a sin. There are many ways that this punishment may happen. AIDS is just one of the consequences of their sin. Another consequence is a miserable life spent trying to gain all that the world has to offer. The ultimate penalty is death and being sent to Hell forever. The homosexual needs to think longer term. This life is not all there is. There will be a judgment and they will stand before a Just Judge.

4. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor

swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

One thing that the homosexual needs to know and understand is that if they are in Christ they have been cleansed and sanctified and justified. They are no longer the unrighteous listed in verse 9 and 10. Some in the Corinthian church falsely believed that they could live a life full of sinful, crooked, unrighteous deeds and still be a part of God's kingdom. Paul explains that it is the unrighteous who will not inherit the kingdom of God. Do not be fooled, the one who practices sin is not "okay" with God. We cannot go on sinning so that grace may abound (Rom 6:1). Paul gives a big list of people who will not inherit the kingdom. One of those mentioned are those who *practice* homosexuality. These are men who are engaging in the sinful acts and practices of homosexuality. This may also include looking at pornography. It is these men, Paul says, that will not enter the kingdom. Paul is proclaiming here is that some of the people in the church were those people. Now, they have been saved. They are no longer sexually immoral, idolaters, drunkards, homosexuals, or greedy. They have been washed of their sins, given a new nature, sanctified and justified by the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God. It is only by his death and resurrection that we have this new life. We were saved from those things, not saved so that we can still live in them. Such were some of you! We must leave our old way of life and remember what Christ has done for us to save us from such a life of sin.

5. Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his

workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The main thing the homosexual needs is salvation which is found in Christ Jesus our Lord. There is not amount of works that can be done to make God happy. It is only by His grace that you are saved. The faith that we have is the means by which we receive that grace to save, but that faith was not because we did something great. Paul reminds us that this is all a gift from the Lord. If we are saved we have nothing to boast about because there is nothing we did to obtain grace. It was given by God to us when we did not deserve it. The homosexual does not deserve anything. No one can earn God's love. Now, this does not mean that we are not to do good works. Paul says that we are Christ's workmanship. Meaning that we are newly created beings because of what Christ did on the cross. We have been made righteous in His sight. We have been saved and have been given a new nature so that we will do good works which were prepared for us beforehand. These good works have been established by God before the foundation of the world so that we might be made more like His Son. The homosexual is no longer a homosexual once saved. He may still struggle with those tendencies, but this is not who he is. He is now to walk in good works. This is not to earn or keep God's love, but to show that you love God and are a new man created in Christ Jesus.

6. Matthew 5:29, 30

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

One of the greatest hindrances to getting rid of a life-dominating sin is the lack of radical amputation. Jesus is talking about lust and how it is more than just a physical act. It is a matter of the heart. We need to cut off whatever is hindering us from growing in the Lord. This passage is not calling you to physically cut out your eye or cut off your hand. It is a drastic metaphor used for drastic change. The use of the eye and the hand are significant though. It is by the eye that one looks with lust and with his hand that he takes it. Jesus is saying that if one of your members causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better to enter heaven with something missing than with everything in its place. The point is that if there is something in your life that is causing you to sin, get rid of it. For the homosexual it could be anything. A life dominating sin has many strings attached and they all need to go. He may have to drive home a different way because the usual way has many old temptations. He may have to quit his job or move to a new town. Whatever is helping one to fall into sin needs to be radically amputated. This allows the person to be free from sin and free to be made more like Christ. The one struggling with homosexual tendencies will need help put off sin and put on righteousness. Radical amputation does not come easy, but it is necessary.

7. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

It is very important that we teach the one with homosexual tendencies where his identity is found. For years of his life, it has been found in his homosexuality. He has been called one and has lived that life for so long that his identity was found in being a homosexual. Once salvation has occurred in such a person, their identity has changed. They are now a new creation

in Christ Jesus. The word for “new” is also used in Eph 4:24 talking about the new man, the new nature. It is a completely new creation which is created in the likeness of God. The old identity is gone and the new one has come. It is like getting rid of your old car and getting a brand new one, not just polishing the old one. For the homosexual, or for anyone really, their identity completely changes when they come to Christ. Their lives are radically different than before. They cannot characterize themselves as homosexuals any longer. They are Christians who struggle with homosexual tendencies. This may be hard for them to grasp because the culture does not see it this way. Many of the churches that they have encountered do not see it this way either. If they are in Christ they are completely new. The old man is gone and the new man is here.

8. Ephesians 4:22-24

...to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

One of the greatest struggles in the life of the believer is the battle with the flesh. For the one who struggles with homosexual tendencies, this will be very hard. Coming out of a life that was totally given up to its own desires can be painful. Cutting off the flesh and all that is associated with it will take a lot of work and a lot of help from fellow believers. This passage explains how the process of being made more like Christ takes place in the believer’s life. The way that we learned Christ, Paul says, is that we are to be put off the old man (old nature). The word for “put off” implies that this was something that was done to us one time in the past. It was a one time event that our old nature was taken away from us. The old nature, belong to the

way we used to live before salvation, was corrupted and deceitful doing whatever it wanted. Paul then explains that since we had the old man taken from us, we are to be constantly renewed in our minds. This has the idea that the process of renewal in the spirit of our minds is done to us. We have no power to do otherwise. But what are we to renew our minds to do? To put on the new man “created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” This new self is not a renovated person. The new man is a completely new man. This act of putting on the new man was a one time act in the past at the moment of salvation. He is created in the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. How amazing it is to think that we were created in the likeness of God Himself so that we can be made more like His Son! The act of putting on the new man is the opposite of getting rid of the old man. The old man was corrupt and full of sin and new man is a completely new creation in Christ, including the homosexual! Both putting off and putting on are one time acts, because we are new creatures and we don’t need to be constantly be made new again and again. What is a continual process throughout the believer’s life is the renewing of our minds. We cannot do this on our own. We must rely on God’s Word and on prayer for this renewal to happen. The one struggling with homosexuality needs to have his mind renewed. There is a battle for his mind and the counselor needs to help him stay focused on God and not on the problem.

9. Matthew 3:8

Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

Once you have established that the one struggling with homosexual tendencies has repented and been saved, there is a lot of work left to do. One of the things that you want to teach him (or her) is that they need to bear fruit in keeping with their repentance. A true believer

bears fruit (John 15:16). There are going to be many signs to look for to see if he is bearing the true fruit of repentance. What would that look like for the homosexual? One of the major things that he needs to do is to leave everything associated with his old way of life. That may include, friends, jobs, living situation, music, movies, places of interest, hobbies, etc... Anything that will be a stumbling block causing him to fall back into that pattern of sin needs to be put away. These are just some of the things that he will need to do in bearing fruit. There will need to be a lot of help given and instruction and training in righteousness that needs to take place. This person needs to be one who loves instruction and knowledge and wisdom. Part of his repentance is changing his mind and his way of thinking from feeling oriented to principle oriented living. The love of wisdom and of discipline will be part of the evidence of true change of mind.

10. Genesis 2:23, 24

Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones

and flesh of my flesh;

she shall be called Woman,

because she was taken out of Man.”

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

This passage is the declaration of God of the first institution he created. From the beginning of creation we see that God's plan for marriage was one man and one woman. The purpose of marriage is companionship. Many homosexuals will claim that they have a companion and are living out what God intended. The reality is that they are violating God's

plan. When God created woman after man, it was because man was alone and it is not good for man to be alone. In verse 24 we see the first marriage taking place. It is very clear to see that marriage is the union of one man leaving his parents to hold fast to one woman. It is not just the physical act that makes them one flesh; it is the fact that they are now one in the eyes of God. They function as one unit. The one struggling with homosexual tendencies needs to learn what marriage is all about. Up to this point they were all in it for themselves. They need to learn that marriage requires the giving up of oneself for the other person. It is a commitment they make to love and serve the other person no matter what happens. This will be a radical change in thinking for them.

Homework

1. Read *Christ and your problems* by Jay Adams. Many times the homosexual will think that his sin is too big and God cannot forgive him. He is not in a unique situation. This booklet will help to show him how Christ is in the problem and how he is not the only one dealing with it.
2. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:6, 7 and fill out the DWT sheet. Explain how to use the sheet and walk them through an example. Have them write the verse on a 3x5 card and then write a personal prayer back to God on the back.
3. Read *Homosexuality: Speaking the Truth in Love* by Ed Welch. Read it and write down the 15 biggest principles that you see. This booklet will cause you to view this sin in a totally different light than you may be used to.
4. Complete the homework “Masculinity: What does it mean to be a real man?” on pages 152-155 in *A Christian Growth and Discipleship Manual: A Homework Manual for Biblical Living vol. 3* by Wayne Mack and Wayne Johnston. This is to get him thinking biblically who he is called to be.
5. As part of radical amputation (Matt 5:29, 30), have them write down the places, people, things, activities, etc... that cause them to fall back into sin. Come up with creative ways with the counselee to cut those things off and to reschedule their life.
6. Many times the one struggling with the sin of homosexuality might not know a lot about Scripture or about God. Get them into the book *Fundamentals of the Faith* put out by Grace Community Church, or *Growing Your Faith* by Jerry Bridges. As their knowledge of God grows so will their faith and they will see greater growth because they are seeing who God really is and how to live the Christian life. If they have a good understanding of the faith and of God, get them to read *The Attribute of God* by A. W. Pink or in *Holiness* by J.C. Ryle.

7. In Armand Tiffe's book *Transformed Into His Likeness* he has a section in the back of it that explains how to understand working through the transformation worksheets. Walk through these few pages with the counselee and make sure that they understand how to do it. This will help them to see how the process of putting off and putting on works.

8. Read one chapter in the book of Proverbs a day. Do this for one year. For each day read the corresponding chapter in Proverbs. This will help them think biblically and antithetically about life. They need to have their minds renewed and their way of thinking has to radically change.

9. Many times, there will be other life dominating sins that go along with a homosexual lifestyle. These could include drugs or alcohol. These will affect many areas of their life. Get them to fill out the homework sheet on "Life Dominating Sin" on pages 105-106 in *A Homework Manual for Biblical Living vol. 1* by Wayne Mack.

10. There are areas that you want to be watchful in their life of such as people pleasing, fear of man, loneliness, etc... It is important to gather data to determine if they are doing these things. Many times they have grown up with no love, no friends, no encouragement and that is part of why they chose the life-style that they did. Have them fill out the worksheet "Drawing out the Purposes of the Heart" (see attached). Observe their answers and see which of these heart issues show up. Get them to see how their life is control by fear of man or by not wanting to be lonely anymore.