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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: **Why is a homosexual suing God?**

I'm reading from a Newsmax story published on July 10, 2008. The article was written by Rick Pedraza. Listen carefully:

A Michigan man is seeking \$70 million from two Christian publishers for emotional distress and mental instability he received during the past 20 years from versions of the Bible that refer to homosexuality as a sin.

Bradley LaShawn Fowler, a gay man, claims his constitutional rights were infringed upon by Zondervan Publishing Co. and Thomas Nelson Publishing, both of which, he claims, deliberately caused homosexuals to suffer by misinterpretation of the Bible.

Fowler, 39, is seeking \$60 million from Zondervan and another \$10 million from Thomas Nelson.

[I'm still reading] According to a USA Today report, Fowler's two separate suits against the publishers claim the intent of the Bible revisions that refer to homosexuals as sinners reflect an individual opinion or a group's conclusion.

Fowler, who is representing himself in both lawsuits, claims the publishers are misinterpreting the Bible by specifically using the word homosexuals, which made him an outcast from his family and contributed to physical discomfort and periods of demoralization, chaos and bewilderment.

<http://www.newsmax.com/InsideCover/man-sues-bible-publishers/2008/07/10/id/339894/> (accessed on 1/5/15).

My friend, I invite your attention to the Bible passage which was cited in this article:

## **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **homosexuals**, nor **sodomites**,

<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

This is from the of the Bible. This passage uses two words which are offensive to homosexuals.

The first word is “*homosexuals*.” It is translated into English from the Greek word **μαλακός**. This word is defined by Thayer’s Lexicon as, “*soft to the touch ... effeminate, of a catamite, a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness.*”

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The second word used in this passage under consideration is “*sodomites*.” This is translated into English from the Greek word **ἀρ-σε-νο-κοί-της**. This word is defined by Thayer’s Lexicon as, “*one who lies with a male as with a female, a sodomite.*”

In other words, the translation into English of this Bible passage is an accurate translation of the sacred text. The publishers who print these Bibles are merely giving to the reading public an accurate translation of what God Himself wrote in the Bible.

Rather than suing publishers, Mr. Fowler needs to be suing God. After all, God is the one who made moral laws.

What Mr. Fowler needs to be aware of is this: Had he lived during the OT dispensation, he would not have been merely “*made ... an outcast from his family ... [demoralized] ... [and bewildered],*” he would have been stoned to death!

### **Leviticus 20:13**

<sup>13</sup> 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.

This is how things were under the OT system.

But the very passage that causes Mr. Fowler such emotional turmoil is a passage which ought to give him hope. Listen to it again. After listing homosexuality and sodomy as a sin and stating that those who practice such sins will not go to heaven, the passage says this:

## **1 Corinthians 6:11**

<sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

In other words, these sins can be forgiven.

Mr. Fowler's destination lies within his own decision-making abilities. He can choose to repent and receive forgiveness or he can choose to continue practicing sin. The choice is his and his own destiny is in his own hands.

It is truly foolish to sue Bible publishers who have faithfully translated what God recorded in scripture. No one would sue a drug company who published harmful side effects of medications. Warning people of harmful side effects is important.

At least when people choose of their own free-will to participate in harmful activities, they do so with their eyes wide open.

My friend, homosexuality and sodomy are sinful even if the courts decide in favor of Mr. Fowler. This very passage begins with the words, "*Do not be deceived.*" God knew sinful men and women would rationalize their behavior. This passage is warning us not to fall into the trap of such warped reasoning.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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