BIBLE TALK

<u>This week the question is</u>: **Should the church accept homosexuality as an alternate lifestyle?**

This question is not asking if the church should accept people who wish to quit practicing the homosexual lifestyle and become Christians. Nor is this question asking if the church should be encouraging to those who struggle with the temptation of homosexuality. The answer to both of these questions is a simple "YES" – the church should accept people who wish to quit their sinful lifestyles and become Christians and the church should encourage members who struggle with temptations to sin. As a matter of fact, listen to the following passage:

> ### 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
> [9] 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**,
> [10] nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.
> [11] **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 an important passage for two reasons.

<u>First</u>: This passage states that those actively participating in the homosexual lifestyle cannot go to heaven.

Notice the two words:

 a) **<u>Homosexuals</u>** = "*in a bad sense of men effeminate, unmanly; … especially of a man or boy who submits his body to homosexual lewdness catamite, homosexual pervert*" (Friberg)

 b) **<u>Sodomites</u>** = "*an adult male who practices sexual intercourse with another adult male or a boy homosexual, sodomite, pederast*" (Friberg)

In other words, those who willingly participate in homosexual activities either actively or passively are not able to go to heaven. (Please note this is not speaking of someone who is raped against their will.)

<u>Second</u>: This passage states that people can be forgiven of homosexual activity.

The sin under consideration is not the temptation to commit sin, but rather the actual participation in sinful behavior.

- Just because a person is tempted does not mean a person has sinned.

- Jesus was "tempted in all points like us, but He never sinned" (Heb 4:15).

- A person could be tempted to lie about something, but still end up telling the truth even though they are tempted to lie.

- A person could be tempted to steal money that is laying on someone's desk, but still end up leaving the money alone and walk away.

- Likewise, a person could be tempted to commit adultery or homosexuality, but in the end, they walk away and refuse to give in to the temptation.

The world speaks on behalf of the Devil and tries to convince people that if they are tempted, (a) they have already sinned and (b) they might as well go ahead and participate in the actual commission of the sin. This is wrong. Parents might be tempted to strangle their teenager, but this does not mean (a) they have already sinned and (b) they might as well go ahead and <u>actually</u> strangle their teenager. No. Christians must learn to overcome temptations and not give in.

If a person has given in to sin, they must seek forgiveness on God's terms. Forgiveness from God means:

- One must realize and admit he or she has sinned.

- Repent of that sinful behavior. (Lk 13:3)

- Believe in Jesus as the Savior sent from God. (Jn 8:24)

- Confess belief in Jesus as the Son of God. (Rom 10:10)

- And be baptized in water for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

The real question our society needs to be asking is: **Is homosexuality a sin?** The answer is: **Absolutely**. The number of people committing a sin does not make a sin right or acceptable. Even if half of all the population were homosexual, this does not make it right in the sight of God.

Did Jesus Himself speak on the issue of homosexuality? He did. Listen to Him:

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Matthew 19:4-6

[4] And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning `made them male and female,'
[5] "and said, `For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh '?
[6] "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

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God created men and women with sexual desires. He designed marriage as the only avenue in which to fulfill those desires. The only form of marriage ordained by God is marriage between a man and a woman.

Biological men may not marry other biological men. Biological women may not marry other biological women.

Again, the apostle Paul, speaking on behalf of the Lord, wrote the following:

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1 Corinthians 7:1-5

[1] Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.
[2] Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, **let each man have his own wife**, and **let each woman have her own husband**.
[3] Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.
[4] The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.
[5] Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

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This is very blunt language. God wrote it like this for a reason. He did not want anyone to be confused.

In answer to our question this week: "*Should the church accept homosexuality as an alternate lifestyle?*" the answer is: NO. The church cannot lower standards which God has set. It is the

responsibility of the church to preach the truth as revealed by God, not to lower standards to conform to trends in society. The church is to be the "support and ground of the truth" (1 Tim 3:15).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well … thanks for considering our message this week. We invite you to visit our website **www.WillOfTheLord.com**. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.