

Gay is OK by the Bible, because Jesus

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Note: "Homosexuality" and "Heterosexuality" aren't referring mainly to sexual actions, they refer to romantic *love*, which is then expressed physically.

This link may be a good way of understanding the overall **attitude** issue:

<http://www.faithstreet.com/onfaith/2013/02/13/on-homosexuality-many-christians-get-the-bible-wrong/15775>

See "Other Resources" at the end of this document for many others who explain it all better than i can!

--You can also find information about **all** sides of this and other issues at **ReligiousTolerance.org** and i urge you to check their site out in any case. For this, start here: <http://www.religioustolerance.org/homosexu.htm>

Intro

If you are a Christian who wants to favor LOVE over judgment and support gay marriage, it is easy - in fact the Bible taken as a whole actually *demands* that, because it all points to Jesus (as the way to know God). Homosexuality can be a test, as it speaks to our basic core as humans, and our devotion to God and what Jesus did for us (so what we need to do for them), and it's hard to compare it to anything else. I first wrote this to be a short, simple document that gave an overview of Christian acceptance, but since everything is connected to everything it became more comprehensive. :p This intro is a brief (i hope) summary:

JESUS

- Jesus says the two main commandments are "**Love God**" and "**Love our neighbors as ourselves**" and that "**All the law and prophets [the whole Bible] are based on those two.**" So **God has no rules that override Love.**
- Jesus also said that "**The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath.**" This can also apply to all of God's laws or rules, in that he didn't make them first and then decide how we have to fit them; rather they are there only *for us*, to *help* us.
- The only thing Jesus says that anyone can *try* to use against gay people is when the Pharisees ask him about divorce, beginning in Matthew 19:3:
Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female. This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together... Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended."
Note that this does not apply to perpetually single people AT ALL (except they likely leave their parents). But it applies to gay people in all ways except gender. Note also that Jesus says that part Moses put in the Bible is not what God originally intended. Why wouldn't that also apply to Paul in the New Testament sometimes?

*Regardless of what anyone believes, Jesus **never** says it's OK to force others to believe or obey anything by force of law or government. The "founding fathers" based our government on the **FREE WILL** God gave everyone. And that includes accepting other people's right to it.*

SIN

- The word “sin” in Hebrew and Greek literally means “miss the mark,” in other words sin is everything that doesn’t hit the imaginary target of perfection. This includes *all* of our flaws, mis-takes and mis-deeds. It is a condition of imperfection we’re all in. **“All have sinned” = “nobody’s perfect”**
- There are thousands of birth defects, many of them way “worse” than being gay. Many things people are born with even kill them, and there are people born with XXY gender chromosomes which makes them factually both male and female (they used to be called “hermaphrodites” and are now known as “[intersex](#)”). Many of those are issues people would like to fix, but **God gave us all the free will to address our own issues** however we see fit (*as long as we don’t hurt anyone - and denying gay people the right to marry hurts them*). Do we demand that someone born without legs use prosthetics to walk upright because “Adam did”? What if they prefer to use a wheelchair? It’s **their choice!**
- **“Morality” is a false concept.** There is only the sea or tapestry of all human actions. Is it “immoral” to be rude to a waiter? Morality is only a somewhat arbitrary subset of all those actions that usually includes murder, theft and sex; and is usually used to judge people. Love is our measure. Being born gay or with cerebral palsy are both “wrong” but why does one result in empathy and help and the other in scorn and hatred just because it has to do with love and sex?

THE BIBLE (Library of writings)

OLD TESTAMENT

- **The Old Testament contains many rules we don’t live by now**, including death by stoning for adultery and other things (as in Sharia law) and that a woman on her period is “unclean” and nobody can touch anything she touches, plus MANY others.
- People like to point out that “God is always the same,” but do you really think we should still stone people to death for adultery? There would be a lot of bloody rocks and fewer people. **God may be the same, but he knows that we change and grow.** If you were a parent to a 2-year-old boy and an adult woman, would you tell them the exact same things? Some things would be the same, such as love your neighbor as yourself, but many very different.

PAUL

- Paul is the one in the New Testament that wrote the passages that many believers use against gay people. But he also says in several other places that he doesn’t have a specific word from God but is giving his own opinion; in other words he admits that not everything in the “Bible” (which he didn’t know would even exist let alone that he would be a part of) is known to be directly from God, as Jesus pointed out about Moses. He was also just writing letters to local churches, who had specific issues, for their time.
- **Paul also says many things that are clearly old-fashioned and out of date**, specifically about women and slavery. For example, “I permit no woman to have authority over a man,” and “it is a shame for a woman to speak in church... If they have questions, let them go home and ask their husbands.” (See section IV.C.2.b below.) **We now know better! As we do about gay people.**

- The Bible says WAY more about adultery and divorce than it does about homosexuality. If our priorities are “in order,” those would be illegal way before gay marriage. But it’s too easy to pick on the gay minority.

I probably need to respond to these general “talking points” even though this intro is getting long. These are expanded in the main document. Some people try to complain that:

- 1) **Gay sex will lead to sex with children (or worse).** But children are a completely different category. They aren’t allowed to do many things, because their brains aren’t developed enough yet to make those choices.
- 2) **Gay marriage will lead to bigamy and prostitution being legal.** But those are made illegal because they are exploitive and create unequal relationships (although one could argue they should be allowed by free will).
♦ *If hetero sex or marriage don’t lead to these, why would gay sex or marriage lead to gay versions of them?*
- 3) **Gay marriage will “weaken the institution” of marriage.** Why? How can one relationship threaten or undermine someone else’s? Including more people who want it *strengthens* marriage. What weakens marriage is domestic abuse and a 50% divorce rate. What if gay people honor marriage *more*, since they had to fight so hard for it?
- 4) **Legalizing gay marriage takes away my religious freedom.** What? It’s the exact opposite - *you* are taking away theirs. Gay people are not trying to tell straight people who straight people can and can’t marry.

Finally i guess some people can accept that people are born gay but think that homosexual *acts* are wrong, in other words it’s wrong to act on it. But do you really want to deny people the right to express their most basic desire to love another human being in a monogamous (and legal) way the same way you can? God shows us that it is the strongest built-in desire as “be fruitful and multiply” is the first thing he tells “Adam and Eve” (even if the biology is convoluted in this case, and no jokes about fruit, please! :). Why would you even want to deny that to anyone?

Let yourself love and accept gay people the way they are. You are flawed too. God gave us all the free will to address our own issues however we see fit. Jesus not only loves them but also died for *all of our sins*, so it’s the least you can do! He *paid for every sin*, that’s the Good News!

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I. Overriding Biblical Principles

A. According to Jesus

"The first and greatest commandment is: Love God with your whole heart, mind and soul.

The second one is *like it*: Love your neighbor as yourself. (This is partly the WAY you obey the first one.)

ALL the law and the prophets are based on those two." –Matt 22:38, Mark 12:29, Luke 10:27

"The sabbath [by implication can include all the "rules"] was made for man, not man for the sabbath." –Mark 2:27

"Don't judge, so you won't be judged." –Matt 7:1, Luke 6:37

"You judge based on earthly things, i don't judge anybody." –John 8:15

"I didn't come to judge the world, but to save it." --John 3:17, 12:46

- **Jesus never advocated passing any secular laws forcing or prohibiting anyone from doing anything.**
- *The Bible doesn't give US that permission either.*

Free Will

♦ *GOD gave every one the free will to make their own choices, unless those choices hurt others or take their rights away.*

♦ ***Things that hurt others or take away their free will, are different than things that don't.***

♦ *We the people do mutually agree to have secular laws that prevent people from doing harm to others.*

♦ *Which is why the U.S. Constitution guarantees religious freedom, because otherwise we'd be in a never-ending fight about whose religion (or version of a religion) is right and gets to be enforced, against other people's views.*

♦ ***PROHIBITING gay marriage is actually the sin here.***

B. All have sinned = Nobody's perfect

The whole concept of sin, which literally means "missing the mark" in both Hebrew and Greek, just means "nobody's perfect." We all have flaws, and therefore commit flawed actions. To say that people couldn't be born gay, with their brain having an attraction outside the "norm," is nonsense, because people are born every day with way more serious, even life-threatening differences including brain damage, cleft palates, missing limbs, flippers for feet, chromosome damage resulting in genetic "dis-eases" and even intersex people (formerly called hermaphrodites) who are born with XXY chromosomes and are a mix of both sexes; and many other things. (Note that comparing gay people to crippled people is only an insult if you "judge" crippled people to begin with.)

The list of birth defects and general flaws is long, in fact it includes everyone, because once again, all have sinned = nobody's perfect. That's why he forgave us all. Because God is LOVE, and *he made us this way*. A standard (but not universal) Christian belief is that Jesus paid for every sin when he suffered and died. Sure, being born gay could be considered a flaw that doesn't promote the prime directive - procreation (although as the world gets more crowded we could find that nature creates more gay people to prevent overpopulation, in other words to *correct* a flaw). But lesbians can get pregnant through many natural and "man-ufactured" means. AND there are *many* married heterosexual couples who can't have children themselves. I am flawed because my brain chemistry is low on serotonin, or something, which makes me an addict, or creates addictive behaviours, which causes problems and is no more or less "bad" than being born gay.

Should an intersex person not be allowed to marry a "normal" person or even another intersex? If someone is born with flippers for feet, are they "morally wrong"? Should they not be allowed to marry other crippled people? Should such a person be forced to use prosthetics, so they could walk upright, since "Adam walked upright"? What if they prefer a wheelchair? God gave each person the free will to decide how they address their own flaws, NOT OTHER PEOPLE'S.

C. "Morality" is a false concept

Don't fall victim to "morality" which is somewhat of a false concept. There is only the "spectrum" or "tapestry" of all actions. The "law" (a.k.a. "rules" - call them "natural laws") is just the instruction manual for how the universe works. Is it "immoral" to be rude to a clerk or waiter? "Morality" is a somewhat vague and arbitrary set of all actions that usually include sex, theft and murder. And it tends to be invoked or used to judge people.

NOTE THAT (*Thanks to George Carlin for this!*):

"Normal" means something that is the *norm*, so left-handed people and redheads and many others are not.

"Natural" means something that occurs in nature, so poison, stillborn babies, and genetic abnormalities are natural.

II. Ways People Define The Issue

That should be all we need to know. But first let's look at the different ways people

View and Define the Issue, from: http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_beli.htm

A common **conservative** belief: homosexuality is a *behavior* -- *something that one does*.

A common **liberal** belief: homosexuality is a *sexual orientation* -- *something that one is*.

6 degrees of opinion:

"Abomination" Homosexuality is profoundly immoral at all times.

"Change is expected" Homosexuals can change their sexual orientation, with effort

"Celibacy is expected" Homosexuals must either change or be celibate.

"Marginally acceptable" Committed homosexual relationships are the least awful option.

"Equality" Seek equal rights. Like heterosexuality, homosexuality is morally neutral.

"Liberation" Interpret the Bible. Homophobia (not homosexuality) is the main evil.

Other nuances

Most Heterosexuals probably feel uncomfortable with the idea of homosexual behavior.

May regard same-sex behavior as intrinsically sinful, no matter what the nature of the relationship.

May respect and love the person though rejecting their behavior (and believe that God feels that same way).

Most in the U.S. reject the concept of same-sex marriage; most in Canada accept it as a civil right.

Many favor allowing same-sex unions or domestic partnerships with some or all traditional benefits of marriage.

Large majority would like to see persons of all sexual orientations (gay, bi, trans, etc.) -- protected from abuse, firing, discrimination in accommodation, hate crimes, etc.

- The gay "lifestyle"? Slanderous hogwash. Have you ever been to a "straight" dance club?
- No fair to ban gay marriage and then complain they are fornicating!

III. General/Secular arguments against

◆ Legalizing gay marriage takes away my religious freedom.

What? It's the exact opposite - YOU are taking away theirs. Gay people are not telling straight people who they can and can't marry. If a gay person (or anyone) told you you couldn't marry your current spouse for any reason (e.g. you are different race, different age, too tall, different social background, etc.), you'd think they were nuts, wouldn't you?! What business of theirs is it who you marry? EXACTLY. And what if they were so pissed off and affronted that you would still get married, that they pass a law prohibiting it? And then, of course you sue them, since of course you have the free will and right to make your own choice. And the constitution, which is based on God's right to free will, proves that you do have the right to marry whatever consenting adult you want. And then the objectors get so pissed off at you that they try to change the very constitution itself! How angry, mean and pissed off is that? All you are trying to do is find happiness in a committed, legal relationship with another consenting adult

◆ Gay sex will lead to sex with children (or worse).

Nonsense. Children are a completely different category. They aren't allowed to drink, drive, vote and other things because their brains aren't developed enough. If hetero marriage doesn't lead to hetero marriage with children, why would gay marriage lead to gay marriage with children?

◆ Gay marriage will lead to bigamy and prostitution being legal.

The reason we separate these activities and make them illegal is because they are **exploitive**. They create **unequal** relationships between the people who engage in them. Gambling also falls into that category. Although if we believe in free will and the right of consenting adults to enter into agreements, one might argue that from a libertarian perspective, adults should be allowed to mutually consent to these relationships and activities. Note that if straight marriage doesn't lead to legalization of straight prostitution or bigamy, there's no reason to believe that gay marriage would lead to legalization of gay prostitution or bigamy. Just because something is different, doesn't mean it would lead to **other** different things.

◆ Gay marriage will "weaken the institution" of marriage.

Why? How can one relationship threaten or undermine someone else's? Since when does including more people who believe in and desire an institution weaken it? Including them STRENGTHENS marriage. Voting is also an institution. Did including women and blacks weaken it? You'd better say NO.

Other factors affecting people's objections:

◆ People make it about the future of American civil law. And yes if civil law is defined by the needs and rights of citizens, gay marriage will be legalized. Civil law must maintain a separation of church and state, otherwise religions and denominations will be at permanent legislative war with each other as they were when our country was founded.

◆ Gay marriage represents a threat to established norms of authority, identity and power. Those who possess that authority and power and who have used them to create their identities are thereby threatened by the prospective changes

◆ Marriage is not just an institution, but also a symbol representing our culture's ideals about sex, sexuality, and human relationships. Symbols are important - they are a common cultural currency which we each use to help create our sense of self. Thus when the traditional nature of marriage is challenged in any way, so are people's basic identities. But challenging gay people's basic identities is not going to fix that, especially since you know how it feels.

IV. The Bible

A. Slavery, Segregation, and Hatred of Gays

Edited from <http://atheism.about.com/od/gaymarriage/a/GaysReligion.htm>

◆ For a long time, race was also part of the essence of the "Created Order," based upon how Christians read Genesis 9 (and slavery is also permitted, even in the New Testament. See links below). For them, the separation of the races, as well as the inferiority of non-whites, were undeniable biblical truths — no less secure and divinely ordained than the definition of marriage as one man and one woman.

◆ It would have been easy for slavers or segregationists to make similar arguments: that it's incompatible with religious liberty to force people to treat blacks like equal human beings or equal citizens. Ultimately, they lost the cultural, social, and political arguments. Society changed, and today both slavery and segregation are wrong.

◆ The same will eventually happen with gays in America. At some point such bigotry will be treated with the same contempt as racial bigotry framed in religious terms. This isn't a threat to religious liberty because no one has a religious "right" to hold and advocate views *without social consequences*.

◆ Christians who think that equal rights for gays is a threat to their religious beliefs are sincere, but are also sincerely immoral and wrong. People like this have opposed justice and liberty throughout American history — always for other people, of course, and always on the basis of their religious traditions. It's because of them that religion has consistently been on the side of oppressors, even as those seeking justice have tried to turn things around and use it on behalf of liberty.

◆ Please Christians, let's stop it.

◆ Racial separation and the Bible:

- http://thetencommandmentsministry.us/ministry/segregation_and_God%27s_word
Example of a page/site that quotes a bunch of scriptures in support of separation, which is disturbing because it shows how they are misinterpreting and misusing many of them:
- <http://www.drslewis.org/camille/2013/03/15/is-segregation-scriptural-by-bob-jones-sr-1960/>
A disturbing speech by Bob Jones in 1960 strongly in support of segregation (for non-christians), although he is against slavery (phew).
- <http://www.religioustolerance.org/marracbib.htm>
Gives example of passages used by segregationists.

◆ **Slavery and the Bible.** Excellent historical overview of Christian views on slavery by Wikipedia:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_views_on_slavery

B. The Old Deal: Overview

As a guide to action we can't count on a lot of the Old Testament (= covenant, contract or deal with God) because a lot of it would be considered immoral today, such as death by stoning for violating the 7th commandment, adultery (note the similarity with "Sharia law"). Most of the Old Deal was designed to ensure survival of the tribe through procreation and preventing death from diseases they didn't understand. We are under a NEW contract, in which Jesus says LOVE (of God, and our neighbors as ourselves) trumps all laws. What is more righteous than the Pharisees' rules in Matt 5:20? LOVE!

Biblical Definition of Marriage

The Bible has NOT historically defined marriage as between one man and one woman.

Family Values: 8 Types of “families” under the Old Deal (http://www.religioustolerance.org/mar_bibl.htm):

1) **Standard nuclear family:** Genesis 2:24 - But in ancient Israel:

- ◆ [Inter-faith marriages](#) were theoretically forbidden, but sometimes formed.
- ◆ Children of inter-faith marriages were considered illegitimate.
- ◆ Marriages were generally arranged by family or friends, not love and courtship.
- ◆ A bride presented as a virgin who couldn't prove it was stoned to death by the men of her village. (Deuteronomy 22:13-21) Apparently there was no similar penalty for men who had consensual pre-marital sex.

2) **Polygyny marriage:** Many references in the Bible, including Jacob, David and Solomon (700 wives):

3) **Levirate Marriage:** Derived from the Latin word "*levir*," meaning "*brother-in-law*." A woman widowed without having a son would have to leave her home, marry her brother-in-law, live and have sex with him.

4) **A man, a woman and her property -- a female slave:** As in Genesis 16 - Sarah, Abram and Hagar.

5) **A man, one or more wives, and some concubines:** Concubines had even lower [status than a wife](#). As implied in Genesis 21:10, a concubine could be dismissed when no longer wanted. According to Smith's Bible Dictionary, "A concubine would generally be either (1) a Hebrew girl bought...[from] her father; (2) a Gentile captive taken in war; (3) a foreign slave bought; or (4) a Canaanitish woman, bond or free."

6) **Male soldier and a female prisoner of war:** Numbers 31:1-18, Deuteronomy 21:11-14

7) **Male rapist and his victim:** Deuteronomy 22:28-29 – A female virgin who's not engaged who is raped must marry her attacker, no matter what her feelings. A man could marry by simply sexually attacking a woman and paying her father 50 shekels of silver (but couldn't later divorce her).

8) **Male and female slave:** Exodus 21:4

Under the Old Deal **women** were:

- ◆ Restricted to roles of little or no authority.
- ◆ Confined to the homes of their fathers or husbands.
- ◆ Inferior to and under the direct authority of men (fathers before marriage or husband after).
- ◆ Not allowed to testify in court trials, appear in public venues or talk to strangers.
- ◆ Required to be doubly veiled when they ventured outside.

<http://www.bibleufo.com/anomwomen.htm>

Lev 15:19-23,31 – When a woman has her monthly period, she stays unclean for 7 days and if you touch her, you must take a bath...Anything she rests or sits on is unclean, and if you touch either of these you must wash your clothes and take a bath...When any of you are unclean you must stay away from the rest of the community of Israel. Otherwise my sacred tent will become unclean and the whole nation will die!

C. Bible Texts

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=244>

http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_bibh1.htm

There are 6 main texts in the Bible regarding homosexuality (perhaps 11 if you count parallel and minor texts):

The Old Deal

Genesis 19:1-11
Leviticus 18:22 & 20:13
Deuteronomy 23:17-18.

The New Deal

Romans 1:26-27
1 Corinthians 6:9-11
1 Timothy 1:8-1

Jesus said nothing.

Here is a great summary chart of the different ways liberals and conservatives interpret the passages:
<http://www.religioustolerance.org/homglance.htm>

1. The Old Writings

Genesis 19:1-13 in context of God's promise to Abraham (Genesis 18-19) and parallel in Judges 19:22-30.

"The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. "My lords," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning." "No," they answered, "we will spend the night in the square."

But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate. Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."

Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing. Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof."

"Get out of our way," they replied. "This fellow came here as a foreigner, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them." They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door.

But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door.

The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here—sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the Lord against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it." "

NOTES: This doesn't even count. YHWH was already going to destroy Sodom. The men wanted to rape the *visiting* angels as a sign of domination (like prison, not gay), *it would not have been consensual*. Lot tries to sell them his virgin daughters but is still considered blameless by God.

(In Judges, the mob accepted the Levite's offer of his concubine and raped her all night. She was able to make it back to the house, where she collapsed at the front door and died. The Levite had not bothered to check on her during the night; he only found her, dead, when he resumed his trip. He sliced up her body into 12 pieces and sent one to each of the tribes of Israel. This triggered a civil war between the tribe of Benjamin, and an army of 400,000 soldiers from the remaining 11 tribes. (Judges 20). Tens of thousands died during the fighting. Apparently all of the Benjamin towns were burned and their women systematically exterminated during the battles.) --Really, Muslims are bad?

Ezekiel (16:48-49) on the sin of Sodom: "As I live, says the Lord God, ... This was the sin of your sister city of Sodom: she and her suburbs had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not help or encourage the poor and needy. They were arrogant and this was abominable in my eyes."

(Q: Is the USA perhaps becoming more like this?)

Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 in the context of other laws in Leviticus 18-20.

18:6 "No one is to approach any close relative to have sexual relations. I am the Lord."

(It continues with just about every relative one can think of.)

19 "Do not approach a woman to have sexual relations during the uncleanness of her monthly period."

20 "Do not have sexual relations with your neighbor's wife and defile yourself with her."

21 "Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molek, for you must not profane the name of your God."

22 "Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable."

23 "Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion."

20:9 "Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death...their blood will be on their own head."

10 "If a man commits adultery with another man's wife, both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death." **13** "If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads."

Newsgroup post: There in those days a woman was considered property. A man could take an unguarded woman and have sex with her (Deut 22:28). *However* it was prohibited to take another man without his consent for it was treating him as though he was a woman! The key is the consent - treating another being as if they might be also a child of god with a soul. Women were not then considered to have a soul except thru the man.

NOTES: The word in *Leviticus 18:22* that is sometimes translated as "**abomination**" (here = detestable) is used many other times in the Old Testament, along with several other words that are translated the same way, according to Strong's Concordance. Here is a list of things that are considered abominations: <http://richardwaynegarganta.com/abomination.htm> and a discussion of it: <http://glow.cc/isa/abomination.htm>. According to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abomination_\(Bible\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abomination_(Bible)): "The most often used but different Hebrew term, *tō ēbā*, is also translated as *abomination* in the [Authorized King James Version](#), and sometimes in the [NASB](#). Many modern versions of the Bible (including the [NIV](#) and [NET](#)) translate it *detestable*; the [NAB](#) translates it *loathsome*. It is mainly used to denote idolatry; and in many other cases it refers to inherently [evil](#) things such as illicit sex, lying, murder, deceit, etc.; and for unclean foods."

Deuteronomy 23:17-18 (and 1Kings 14:24, 15:12 & 22:46, 2Kings 23:7)

23:1-2 "No one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the Lord.

No one born of a forbidden marriage (or, illegitimate birth) nor any of their descendants may enter the assembly of the Lord, not even in the tenth generation."

9-20 "When you are encamped against your enemies, keep away from everything impure. If one of your men is unclean because of a nocturnal emission, he is to go outside the camp and stay there. But as evening approaches he is to wash himself, and at sunset he may return to the camp.

Designate a place outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself. As part of your equipment have something to dig with, and when you relieve yourself, dig a hole and cover up your excrement. For the Lord your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you.

If a slave has taken refuge with you, do not hand them over to their master. Let them live among you wherever they like and in whatever town they choose. Do not oppress them. (*NOTE: pretty good against slavery in this case!*)

No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine prostitute. You must not bring the earnings of a female prostitute or of a male prostitute into the house of the Lord your God to pay any vow, because the Lord your God detests them both.

Do not charge a fellow Israelite interest, whether on money or food or anything else that may earn interest. You may charge a foreigner interest, but not a fellow Israelite, so that the Lord your God may bless you in everything you put your hand to in the land you are entering to possess."

NOTES: From verse 17 the Hebrew word "Qadesh" (which literally means '*holy one*') has been translated as: cult prostitute (ESV), prostitute (LB), shrine prostitute (NIV), temple prostitute (NLT) cult prostitute (RSV); and in KJV 'whore' for women and 'sodomite' for men. There is no historical or Biblical indication that these male prostitutes serviced other males.

>>Old Deal conclusions:

Old Deal conclusions:

Conservative Christians: God's Word in the Old Testament refers repeatedly and consistently to homosexuality as a forbidden, detestable practice deserving of the most severe punishment by God or mankind. Since God does not change, these prohibitions must be equally valid today.

Liberal Christians: These Hebrew Scriptures refer repeatedly to punishment of prostitutes who engage in ritual sex in Pagan temples, and punishment of people who rape women. The Hebrew Scriptures are silent on same-gender sexual behavior, whether in the form of casual sex, or committed, consensual homosexual relationships.

2. The New Deal

a) Jesus

It's important to repeat that Jesus **doesn't say anything** about homosexuality (or abortion for that matter).

Here is one thing Jesus said, that people like to use. It is not accurate to quote verse 5 without including the context. Note that it addresses divorce, not homosexuality. (Why isn't divorce made illegal before gay marriage?)

Matthew 19:3-12

"Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: "Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?" "Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female. And he said, 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together." "Then why did Moses say in the law that a man could give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away?" they asked. Jesus replied, "Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful." Jesus' disciples then said to him, "If this is the case, it is better not to marry!" "Not everyone can accept this statement," Jesus said. "Only those whom God helps. Some are born as eunuchs, some have been made eunuchs by others, and some choose not to marry for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let anyone accept this who can."

NOTES:

- This doesn't even apply to people who are going to stay single throughout their lives.
- Gay people can be included in the "eunuchs" category as far as heterosexuality goes.
- For gay people the point of this becomes the monogamy and lifelong commitment, which is what they WANT to be able to do equally by getting married! God LOVES that!

b) Paul is not Jesus

The rest of the passages usually used against homosexuality are from letters, usually attributed to Paul, who is not Jesus, and who never physically met him. Much of it is "kindler and gentler" than existing customs; we can see how many of the passages below are egalitarian, or attempt to be in their ancient context, but we can see it is still *old-fashioned*. *He also wrote each letter to a specific church, and nowhere says that all of it applies to everyone everywhere until the end of time.*

Following are other things Paul said, showing that we have to make sure we take what he says in context, and even sometimes with a grain of salt:

Read this first:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/crossexamined/2012/12/what-did-paul-know-about-jesus-not-much/>

"For being the founder of Christianity, Paul knew surprisingly little about Jesus....

If we stick to the reliably Pauline works and assume the authenticity of 1 Corinthians 15, here is the Gospel of Paul: *Jesus died for our sins by crucifixion and was then raised from the dead three days later, according to prophecy. He was seen by many after the resurrection. He was a descendant of David, he was betrayed, he defined a bread and wine ritual for his followers, and the Jews killed him. The End.*"

But note how altruistic this is in Galatians 3: [26](#) So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith...[28](#) There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Despite the "wives submit" this is still an attempt to swap love and respect between the two elements of relationships.

Colossians 3:18-21

[18](#) Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord.

[19](#) Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

[20](#) Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.

[21](#) Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.

1) Not necessarily from God

1 Corinthians 7:

10 To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord)...

12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord)...

25 Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy.

40 In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is—and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

2 Corinthians 11:

17 In this self-confident boasting I am not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool.)

2) The world's going to end soon

Any writer in the Bible who makes this erroneous assumption is apt to be *wrong* about any conclusions based on it.

1 Corinthians 7: (this is used as a reason for slaves to stay slaves, as it goes with the slave section below)

24 Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them...

29-31 "What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away."

3) Women

1 Timothy 2:11-15 [*wife and husband* can be substituted for *woman and man*]

11 A woman should learn in quietness and full submission.

12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet.

13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.

15 But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

"Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church."

NOTE: *There is an explanation that the women of Corinth were especially loud and boisterous and Paul is just telling them to calm down. But he could have put it that way, and he didn't. His mode of thinking here is plainly out of date.*

Ephesians 5:22-28

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

25 **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...**

26 **In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.**

27 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—

28 for we are members of his body.

1 Corinthians 11:3-16

But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ,^a the head of a wife^b is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. This means that any man who prays or prophesies with something on his head brings shame to his head.

But any wife who prays or prophesies without something on her head brings shame to her head. In fact, she may as well shave her head. A wife should wear something on her head. It is a disgrace for a wife to shave her head or cut her hair. But if she refuses to wear something on her head, let her cut off her hair.

Men were created to be like God and to bring honor to God. This means that a man should not wear anything on his head. Women were created to bring honor to men. It was the woman who was made from a man, and not the man who was made from a woman. He wasn't created for her. She was created for him. And so, because of this, and also because of the angels,^c a woman ought to wear something on her head, as a sign of her authority [or, as a sign that she is under someone's authority]. As far as the Lord is concerned, men and women need each other. It is true that the first woman came from a man, but all other men have been given birth by women. Yet God is the one who created everything. Ask yourselves if it is proper for a woman to pray without something on her head. Isn't it unnatural and disgraceful for men to have long hair? But long hair is a beautiful way for a woman to cover her head. This is how things are done in all of God's churches, and that's why none of you should argue about what I have said."

Notes:

^a*Christ* is transliterated (a word created by simply modifying, not translating) from the Greek word *Christos*, which in English simply means *anointed* or *messiah*, or in current English, *savior* or *chosen*.

^bThe Greek word *gunē* may refer to a *woman* or a *wife*, depending on the context. It has been translated *wife* here in verses deal with **wearing a veil, a sign of being married in first-century culture.**

^cAny time the word *angel* appears in the Bible, it is a translation of the Greek word *angelos* which simply means *messenger (envoy, announcer)* in English. Which is why it's also the root of the word "evangelize."

--My questions is always, why don't they just write those words in English? Not doing so gives is a "foreign" or "christianese" flavor and makes things sound weird or OLD, when in fact they are just basic everyday concepts.

1 Peter 3:1-9

Wives

"In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over by observing your pure and reverent lives.

Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands. For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do."

Husbands

7 "In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered."

All Christians

8 "Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it."

4) Slavery

<http://biblicallanguagesresearch.blogspot.com/2011/02/doulos.html>

The Hebrew word *'ebed* is a close correspondent to *doulos*. *'Ebed* carries a range of meaning such as servant, official, slave. The Greek *doulos* literally means slave, one who is "owned property totally and unquestionably at the behest of the owner." (**Concise Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**, F. W. Danker, page 101)

Put *slave* in Google translator, get *doúlos*. Enter *servant*, get *ypirétis*.

There are different words used in the New Testament, translated as slaves and servants. Sometimes people were indentured servants, serving voluntarily for various reasons, including to pay off a debt. But there were still SLAVES. Paul is advocating a "kinder, gentler" mode of slavery than generally existed. But he still supports slavery, even if it was just because there was no way to revolt and overthrow the Roman Empire or even the existing social order (look how hard it was much later in our Civil War). And the slavery of the Old Testament was just as brutal as ever.

Regardless of how you understand these passages, people **have used them** for centuries to support slavery. The same way people are using the "gay" passages against gay people.

Examples:

Parallel passages combined: Colossians 3:22-25 and Ephesians 6:5-9

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect, fear and sincerity of heart in everything you do, just as you'd obey Christ. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve willingly and wholeheartedly, as if you were serving God, not people; because you know God will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Don't threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and God has no favorites.

[1 Peter 2:18-19](#)

"Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God."

Also see: [1 Timothy 6:1](#), [Titus 2:9](#), [Philemon 1:16](#)

BUT:

[1 Corinthians 7:20-23](#)

"Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them. Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord's freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ's slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings."

c) Paul's "Gay texts"

[Romans 1:26-27](#) in the context of the letter's introduction ([Romans 1-3](#)).

Start here they cover it way more thoroughly than i can: http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_bibc.htm

(NLT and CEV) **1:23** And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like people who can not live forever, or birds and animals and snakes... **1:25+** So they worshiped the things God made but not the creator. That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relationships with women, burned with lust for each other. They did shameful things with each other, and what happened to them is punishment for their foolish deeds... They are evil, wicked and greedy, as well as mean in every possible way. They want what others have and they murder, argue, cheat and are hard to get along with. They gossip, say cruel things about others, and hate God. They are proud, conceited and boastful...don't respect their parents...stupid, unreliable, don't have any love or pity for others. **BUT...**

2:1 Some of you accuse others of doing wrong. **But there's no excuse for what you do. When you judge others, you condemn yourself**, because you're guilty of doing the very same things. **You surely don't think much of God's wonderful goodness or of his patience and willingness to put up with you...****3:10** The scriptures tell us: 'No one is acceptable to God!' **3:20 All the law does is point out our sin.** Now we see how God does make us acceptable to him. The law and the prophets tell how we become acceptable and it isn't by obeying the Law of Moses. God treats everyone alike. He accepts people only because they have faith in Jesus Christ. All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard."

There has been a lot written about the above passage, but let's just point out:

- ◆ This was written to Rome and is about **idolators**, who had become Christians but returned to Paganism.
- ◆ There are many sins mentioned here, such as gossip, greed and pride; we "argue" and are "hard to get along with," most of which we all commit on a regular basis. Nobody's perfect and nobody has the right to judge.
- ◆ Forcing people to be moral doesn't help anyone one single bit, since nobody can be saved that way. Turning people against God is worse.
- ◆ This says that men and women have abandoned their natural heterosexual attraction. But if you're gay, that isn't natural to you, so this passage doesn't apply and would actually be the opposite (wrong to engage in same sex).
- ◆ There are also huge cultural differences between the Hebrew and Greco-Roman worlds 2000 years ago, and ours now.

This blog at Patheos points out that: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/storiedtheology/2016/05/10/does-god-have-gender/>

A North American dude bro who boasts about having sex every night would be thought effeminate in ancient Rome for his enslavement to his body's passions.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 in the context of Paul's instructions (1 Corinthians 5-6).

http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_bibc1.htm

King James (which is OLD) translates it like this: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, **nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind**, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Here is a list of 25 different Bible translations of this passage:

http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_sav1.htm

◆ *Note that anyone who covets anything or ever puts anything above God is also included in the same group of people, which means that all of us at any given time are included; which means that it can't be absolute, or nobody would ever inherit God's kingdom.*

◆ If Paul wanted to refer to homosexual behavior, he would have used the word "*paiderasste*." That was the standard Greek term at the time for sexual behavior between males.

◆ Bible translations differ widely because the translators were seeking to identify what Paul meant by the two Greek words: *malakoi* and *arsenokoitai*.

◆ "*Malakoi*" is translated in both Matthew 11:8 and Luke 7:25 as "*soft*" (KJV) or as "*fine*" (NIV) in references to clothing. It could also mean "*loose*" or "*pliable*," as in the phrase "*loose morals*," implying "*unethical behavior*." In the early Christian church, the words were interpreted by some as referring to persons who are pliable, easily influenced, without courage or stability. Non-Biblical writings of the era used the word to refer to lazy men, men who cannot handle hard work, and cowards.

◆ This is the earliest occurrence of the word "*arsenokoitai*"; it seems to have been a term created by Paul for this verse. The exact meaning is lost. It was a compound word of "male" and "bed" which had the connotation of a male who lies with a male, hence "sodomite." It has variously been translated into English as homosexuals, masturbators, pimps, etc. _

<http://www.religioustolerance.org/homarsen.htm>

◆ Words that have been used to translate it include:

homosexuals, defined in various different ways.

male prostitutes, also described as "*men kept for unnatural purposes.*"

catamites, or **boy prostitute**. This is a young male -- often a slave -- who is kept as a sexual partner of an adult male. This would mean that the victim of the abuse is also being condemned.

pederasts: male adults who sexually abuse boys

perverts: a person engaged in some undefined activity that is one of the dozens of sexual activities that some consider to be perversions.

sodomites: This used to refer to inhabitants of the city of Sodom which is [described in Genesis 19](#). (See above.)

Nowdays it refers to **anyone, straight or gay**, who has **anal** or **oral** sex.

◆ *The Message* refers to "Those who ... use and abuse sex"

◆ BBE translates it as "or is less than a man, or makes a wrong use of men."

1 Timothy 1:8-11. http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_bibc7.htm

"We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me."

NOTES: This contains the same problematic word "*arsenokoita*" as the Corinthians passage above, so it has the same issues of interpretation. Do we choose the interpretation of LOVE, as Jesus does, or do we choose the interpretation of JUDGMENT as the Pharisees did?

Difference in conservative (Pharisee) or liberal (Jesus) interpretation

I'm not labeling Jesus as "a liberal," just that his interpretation of the law was more liberated and accepting than that of the (definitely conservative, old school) Pharisees:

◆ **Meaning:**

Conservatives: Paul is repeating here his condemnation of all homosexual activity which he first wrote of in 1 Corinthians 6:9.

Liberals: The book of 1 Timothy was one of the series of "Pastoral Letters" written by an unknown author perhaps half a century or more after Paul's death, and falsely attributed to Paul. The text would appear to have no relationship to homosexuality in the modern sense of the term: consensual sexual activities by persons of the same sex.

◆ **Author:**

Liberals generally believe that this Epistle was not written by St. Paul, but was composed by an anonymous author who was a student of Paul's theology and wrote as a follower of Paul. If done in modern times, this would be considered a forgery. However, it was routine practice in Palestine during the first and second century [CE](#).

Conservatives generally believe that 1 Timothy was written by Paul. 1 Timothy 1:1 actually states this. For almost all of its history, the Christian church has taught that Paul wrote 1 Timothy.

◆ **Date written:**

Liberals suggest that the Epistle was written circa 100 to 150 [CE](#) by an unknown author, up to 85 years after St. Paul's execution by the Roman Empire.

Conservatives generally believe that it was written at a much earlier date. The Schofield Reference Bible says that Paul wrote the Epistle in 65 CE, during the interval between his two imprisonments by the Roman government.

Is your heart right yet? :) God bless you on your journey!

V. Other Resources

Christian Gays: <https://christiangays.com/> and **great links:** <https://christiangays.com/information>

GayChurch: <http://gaychurch.org> and more **great links:** <http://www.gaychurch.org/links>

Two great ebooks that do it way better than i can!:

<http://gayprejudice.com/GayPrejudice.pdf>

<https://christiangays.com/Information/gay-christian>

Whosoever: <http://www.whosoever.org/bible/>

Metropolitan Community Churches: <http://mcccchurch.org/>

More Light Prebyterians: <http://www.mlp.org/>

LGBT in the Episcopal Church: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/lgbt-church>

LGBT Mormon Families and Friends: <http://affirmation.org/>

Reb Gershon Caudill, "*A Heterosexual Jewish Rebbe's View on the (Supposedly) Homosexual Texts in the Hebrew Bible*":

<http://www.affirmation.org/ecokosher.htm>

There is also a great Study Guide at: <http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=244>

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