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Homosexuality
Leviticus 18:22-23 and 20:13

Homosexuality DIG: What does God's Word say about homosexuality? What do you do when your feelings are at odds with God's Word? Which do you obey? Is homosexuality the unforgivable sin? Why? Why not? How did Adam and Eve turn into Adam and Steve?

REFLECT: How can you protect your family against the homosexual lobby and the assault on our Godly culture? Yeshua said to count the costs when following Him. What will it cost you to uphold the standard of holiness that ADONAI expects from each and every believer?

God holds men, as heads of households, directly accountable for such sins.



Coming on the heels of the high, holy chapters of **purity** (**to see link click Bj – The Mitzvot of Purification**), it seems strange to plunge into a litany of forbidden **sexual** relationships. They are commandments which define **sexual** morality. The main thrust of the chapter is a lengthy list of detailed **statutes** (Hebrew: *hachukkim*, meaning *to write into law permanently*) and **ordinances** (Hebrew: *hammishpatim*, meaning *a judgment of the court*) about abstaining from the abhorrent **sexual** acts and **the curses** resulting from their violation **(18:6-23)**. It is a jarring transition to go from the sublime imagery of the high priest emerging from the Most Holy Place to the blunt prohibitions on incest and other uncleanness. But these are also purity mitzvot. They are different from the previous ones because

they come with a moral and ethical component.[309]

I hold no ill-will against **homosexuals**; however, a rigorous critique of same-sex intercourse can have the unintended effect of bringing personal pain to **homosexuals**, some of whom are already prone to self-loathing (see **Ae – The Bible and Homosexual Practice**). This is why it needs to be stated right up front that to feel **homosexual** impulses does not make one a bad person. Whatever one thinks about the immorality of **homosexual** behavior, or about the abhorrent of elements within the **homosexual** lobby, **homosexual** impulses are just like all other **sinful** impulses of **the flesh (Romans 7:14-25)**. A **homosexual** impulse cannot **give birth to sin** unless one gives in to **it (James 1:13-15)**. The person with **homosexual temptation**, or practice, should evoke our concern, sympathy, help, and understanding, not our scorn or hatred.

Homosexuality is not the unforgivable **sin. Yeshua** said: **I tell you that people will be forgiven *any* sin and blasphemy, but blaspheming the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** (the rejection of **the Holy Spirit**) **will not be forgiven** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Em – Whoever Blasphemes Against the Holy Spirit Will Never Be Forgiven**)**.** Therefore, according to **God's Word**, a person can be a believer, struggle with, and practice **homosexuality**, and still have that **sin forgiven**. Now, it doesn't mean that there won't be consequences in **the sinner's** life, just like any other kind of **sin**. But we should **love** the **sinner**, and hate the **sin**.

Today, many churches are not teaching that **homosexuality** is a **sin**. They want to be "inclusive." So, they avoid the topic. **Jesus** didn't avoid it. Just after describing the destruction of the world by the Flood, **Messiah** said: **Likewise, as it was in the time of Lot – people ate and drank, bought and sold, planted and built; but the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all** (see the commentary on **Genesis Fa – The LORD Rained Down Burning Sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah**)**. That is how it will be on the day the Son of Man is revealed (Luke 17:28-30).** This conforms with **John's** prophecy that the "church" during the Great Tribulation will be an apostate church, spewing out lies and false doctrine (see the commentary on **Revelation Bf – The Church at Laodicea**).

Homosexuality (18:22): Homosexuality is forbidden in the strongest of terms. **It** is condemned more harshly than all other forms of immorality and **sexual** deviancy forbidden in the Torah, which refers to it as a *toevah*, meaning *an abomination to*

YHVH. Lesbian activists often point out that the prohibition says nothing in regard to **women**, but from **18:6** onwards, it is understood that the prohibitions apply to both genders. **Paul** shows that **he** is without prejudice or bias by soundly condemning both genders of **homosexuality**. **This is why God has given them up to degrading passions; so that their women exchange natural sexual relations for unnatural; and likewise, the men, giving up natural relations with the opposite sex, burn with passion for one another, men committing shameful acts with other men and receiving in their own persons the penalty appropriate to their perversion. In other words, since they have not considered God worth knowing, God has given them up to worthless ways of thinking; so that they do improper things (Romans 1:26-28).**

Yet the progressive thinkers of the modern age often raise the objection that a person does not choose a gay or lesbian lifestyle; they are born with it. But there is no "gay gene." Wouldn't it be unfair of **YHVH** to make human beings **homosexual** and then forbid them to engage in **homosexual** behavior? What if someone said they were born with a "rape gene?" Or a "pedophilia gene?" Or a "murder gene?" Would that be Ok? Would society put up with that? People with urges to rape, commit pedophilia, or murder must suppress that urge just like the person with an inclination to commit adultery must suppress that urge. They used the "gay gene" theory to avoid taking responsibility for their **sinful** choices. But **sin** is still **sin**.

In support of their position, apologists for the gay community claim that **Messiah** never talked about **homosexuality**. In doing so, they unwittingly or not, separate the godhead, which is, of course, impossible. **Yeshua** is the author of **Leviticus** and **the Word of God (John 1:1-2)**. This is what **Messiah** says about **homosexuality**: **You are not to go to bed with a man as with a woman; it is an abomination (18:22)**. **God** holds **the men**, as heads of households, directly accountable for such **sins**. **Leviticus 18:22a** addresses **the men** in the second person; **Leviticus 18:22b** addresses **the women** in the less direct, third person.[310] But **God's Word** went even further in the Dispensation of Torah (see the commentary on **Exodus Da – The Dispensation of the Torah**), saying: **If a man goes to bed with a man as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They must be put to death . . . their blood is on them (Leviticus 20:13).** This punishment was reserved for only the most serious of offenses to **Ha'Shem**.

In addition, a common defense of the gay lobby also claims that it's only the judgmental, "mean" God of the "Old Testament" who condemns **homosexuality**; but the loving **Yeshua** doesn't say anything about it in the "New Testament."

Nothing could be further from the truth. There are eleven scriptures that directly address **homosexuality** in the Bible; seven in the TaNaKh **(Genesis 19:1-11; Leviticus 18:22, 29-30,** and **20:13; Judges 19:16-24; First Kings 14:24** and **15:12;** and **Second Kings 23:7)**, and four in the B'rit Chadashah **(Romans 1:18-32; First Corinthians 6:9-11; First Timothy 1:8-10;** and **Jude 7).**

These are the words and phrases that **God** uses to describe this deviant practice: **cut off, detestable, wicked, vile, an outrageous thing, godlessness, without excuse, fools, sinful desires, impurity, degrading their bodies, shameful lusts, unnatural relations, penalty, deceived, sexually immoral, sinful, the unholy, irreligious, perversions, a lie exposed as a warning of the everlasting fire awaiting those who must undergo punishment.** Lastly, **ADONAI** has set up the world for healthy things to reproduce. Healthy plants reproduce, healthy animals reproduce, and healthy people reproduce. **Homosexuals** do not reproduce. This alone is an indictment of their lifestyle. Or as **YHVH** says: **It is an abomination.**

Bestiality (18:23): You are not to have sexual relations with any kind of animal. Sexual relations between humans and **animals** are expressly forbidden and referred to as **a perversion** (Hebrew: *tevel* is from the root *bll*, which means *to mix*). This indicates that this **sexual** practice involves improper mixing together of the different species, stepping over the boundaries that **YHVH** has established **(Genesis 1:1** to **2:3)**. It is significant that the Bible puts **sex** with **animals** in the same context as **homosexuality**. Today, many people think **bestiality** is unnatural and the Bible equates **homosexuality** and **bestiality**.[311] In fact, to show **God's** distain for **homosexuality**, the context of this verse includes all sorts or **sexual** deviations, including bestiality. By the end of the chapter, **Ha'Shem** declares: **For those who engage in any of these disgusting practices, whoever they may be, will be cut off from their people (18:29).** With this, the mitzvot of forbidden **sexual** activity are complete. The closing section **(18:24-30)** is an admonition against violating any of the **sexual** prohibitions stated in this chapter.

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise and thank **You** that in **Your** great **love** to bless all, especially **Your** children, **You** have withheld no good thing. **No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly (Psalms 84:11c).** I am so grateful for **Your love** that always seeks to give the best. No rule that **You** make is ever made to hurt anyone but only to bless and **You love** to bless! **You** desire to give fullness of life. **I have come that they might have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10)!** I know that **You** work out all that happens in my life **for good**! **Now we***

know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Your love *is so deep that you gave the costliest gift that* ***You*** *could give –* ***Your*** *only* ***son*** *to painfully die in our place****. He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things?*** *Nothing can separate us from* ***God's*** *great and gracious* ***love****!* ***. . . But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Messiah Yeshua our Lord. Romans 8:27-39).*** *We* ***love*** *you! In* ***Yeshua's*** *holy name and power of resurrection. Amen*