

## THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE OVER CHURCHES

My childhood and teenage years, from when I was 6 to 16, were in the Methodist Church in New Zealand. Shortly after that there was a clear indication that the leadership had become liberal and would not stand with what the Bible said regarding the issue of homosexuality.

A family friend made these comments: "There was a homosexual minister operating at the time. It was asked whether this man should be in a pastorate. They said, "The status quo applies," meaning that he is already there so he can stay. I couldn't understand how the "status quo" meant that he could even be in that situation in the first place.

That did it for me. I went back to our own church and said, 'I don't see how we can remain Methodists if this is where they are going and that is what their doctrine is.'

There was much opposition to the Methodist leadership, but it was totally ignored. That was because the Methodist hierarchy, the liberal people who agreed with homosexuality, were in those committees.

A lot of people stayed in the Methodist church and tried to change it, but in the end they couldn't do it. There were some great men of God and they battled on for years to change the hierarchy.

It is not a Methodist Church as far as we are concerned. It is another church that took over from within, which is not from the kingdom of God."

I will seek to show from the Bible that homosexuality is a sin and therefore my childhood church made the right decision in not aligning themselves with that form of compromise and false teaching that had come from within.

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

The Scriptures that speak about homosexuality portray it as being a form of sexual immorality, perversion and ungodly conduct:

1) Genesis 19:4-7 – Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because they gave themselves up to the sin that is named after them; sodomy.

2) Leviticus 18:22 – It is detestable for a man to have a sexual relationship with another man.

3) Leviticus 20:13 – Under the law of Moses there was a harsh punishment for those who committed the act of homosexuality, for God calls it detestable.

4) Judges 19:22-23 – Israelites from the tribe of Benjamin practiced the perversion of bisexuality and sodomy, and for that they were punished.

5) Romans 1:24-27 – Lesbianism is equally condemned along with homosexuality as being a form of sexual perversion.

6) 1 Corinthians 6:9-12 – Those who practice homosexuality will not inherit the kingdom of God, unless they are washed, sanctified, and justified.

7) 1 Timothy 1:8-11 – Homosexuality is condemned by both the law and the gospel.

8) 2 Peter 2:6-8 – Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of their ungodly, depraved, and lawless behaviour. They followed the corrupt desires of their flesh.

9) Jude 7 – We are clearly told that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire as a warning to those who give themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion.

**"We live in a day when people are trying to make sexual impurity acceptable."**

## THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION OF MARRIAGE

*'The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

*Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.*

*But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

*The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."*

*That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh' (Genesis 2:18-24).*

Marriage is blessed by God as a male and female relationship. This is assumed throughout the Scriptures. Every law, every parable, and every teaching relating to marriage in the Bible is only male/female.

The Ten Commandments presuppose that we are to honour our father and mother (Exodus 20:12). The apostle Paul presupposes it when he says wives submit to your husbands and husbands love your wives (Ephesians 5:22-33).

Homosexuality and lesbianism are called shameful, unnatural, indecent and perversion (Romans 1:24-27,32). The spirit behind it is lust.

Homosexual desires and actions are clearly rebuked by the word of God. It is therefore totally against God's will for homosexuals to marry one another. Gay marriages are sinful and should be forbidden. The well-known saying is true: God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.

**JESUS UPHOLDS GOD'S ORIGINAL INTENTION OF MARRIAGE**

There are four ways Jesus affirmed heterosexual marriage and condemned homosexuality.

**1) Jesus did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfil them (Matthew 5:17-20).**

Jesus said, *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart"* (Matthew 5:27-28).

*"It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery"* (Matthew 5:31-32). If you thought that once Jesus fulfilled the Law it would be easier to commit sexual immorality, you are wrong!

**2) Jesus taught that sexual immorality in any form defiles us.**

*"He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person"* (Mark 7:20-23).

**3) Jesus reaffirmed God's intention of heterosexual marriage by holding to the teaching of Genesis and the example of Adam and Eve (Matthew 19:1-12).**

Jesus emphasized marriage as being a male/female union for life by referring back to God's intent at the beginning of creation. A person can remain single, but to get married they must find a partner of the opposite sex.

**4) Jesus spoke of Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction as a warning for us (Matthew 10:14-15; Luke 17:28-32).**

Jesus affirms the Genesis story that warns of Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction, meaning that we should take all the details of that event very seriously.

The judgment that came upon Sodom and Gomorrah is similar to the judgment of God that will come upon Babylon in the last days (Revelation 18:9-10). The true Jesus is righteous and holy. He forgives those who confess their sins and repent, and yet He will judge the world.

The good news is that Jesus came to save sinners and to change people's lives; to bring people out of darkness and into His wonderful light. Many homosexuals have experienced deliverance when they have come to know the true love of God as a Father.

**YOU CAN BE SAVED!**

**"Jesus, have mercy on me for I have been an unbeliever and a sinner, but now I repent and put my faith in You. Save me, Lord Jesus, and make me into a true Christian."**

For more information contact:  
Evangelist/Pastor Matthew Needham  
findsalvation@hotmail.com  
www.evangelistmatthew.com

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*Homosexuality*

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**SIN?**

*Discerning  
God's will  
for  
Sexual Purity*