

Biblical Authority

In recent years, homosexuality has increasingly captured the attention of people of all lifestyles. Online searches for this topic total in the billions of searches every day. The data includes research and commentary on biological issues, social practice, cultural acceptance, and Biblical references. Contributors involve physicians, counselors, and scientists who comment on this crucial issue.

As you would expect, homosexuals take great effort to justify their practices, even including Biblical interpretations of passages that mention homosexuality. A brief reading of the data for this subject reveals that the LGBT community (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) rejects the Biblical references to homosexuality, including rejection of Biblical authority on the topic. They deny that the selected Biblical references contain any anti-homosexual or LGBTQ concepts in them. They conclude that their denials clearly prove all the Biblical references analyzed are false.

Proper Biblical Interpretation

Any analysis of the Bible, specifically homosexuality, must begin with a clear understanding of its message. In it, God reveals himself to mankind. Along with God's self-revelation comes the disclosure of his plan for his creation, including humans. The Bible answers the critical questions that mankind asks themselves.

The content of the Bible came from God to humanity through human instruments as directed and inspired by the Holy Spirit. That makes it inspired, inerrant, and infallible in all matters to which it speaks. It gives us the wisdom of God as well as his commands for his creatures. The Bible describes God's plans and purposes for people like you and me.

To accomplish this purpose, God's word comes to us as a meta-story through a variety of writings. The meta-story of the Bible follows an overarching chiasmus:

creation/perfection
 sin/judgment
 old covenant redemptive event
 new covenant redemptive event
 judgment/removal of sin
consummation/perfection (1)

You cannot interpret the Bible, i.e., passages of Scripture on homosexuality, like a cafeteria menu, picking and choosing what you like and rejecting what you do not like. A proper interpretation of the Bible and the interrelationship of one section with another must consider its

overarching meta-story. Otherwise, misunderstandings and misinterpretations occur. Those commentators who rejected Biblical references failed to follow the Bible's meta-story and lack the insight of the Holy Spirit.

Further, because of its self-attesting nature, the Bible stands above human criteria for its veracity. Therefore, it, and it alone, sets the standard(s) by which mankind must live in relationship to God, to creation, and to other humans. (2)

Because of the inherited sinful nature that all humanity possesses, we cannot understand the Bible with our own capacities. It appears foolish to us, and we cannot know its meaning. God provides his Holy Spirit to reveal his message to mankind, so we gain understanding only by revelation to us by God's Spirit.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:12-14 (KJV)

God has revealed himself to humanity and has made himself plain to mankind in a variety of ways: the inspired, inerrant, infallible word of God, the Bible; his son Jesus Christ; and creation. (3) But our ungodliness and unrighteousness cause us to suppress the truth of God as revealed to us.

Yet, those who come to God through faith in Jesus Christ as their savior find forgiveness for sin and reconciliation back to God. He places his Holy Spirit within them who then have the indwelling Spirit whom God sent to reveal his word to them.

Those of us who have experienced God's salvation through faith in Jesus Christ know the reality of this truth. If you have not trusted in God's provision for sinners like you and me, his son Jesus Christ, who died as a substitute for people like us, I urge you to turn from your sin and trust him today. He will open your mind to understand the Bible and its message and prove to you the certainty of his promises.

These primary basic beliefs form the foundation upon which to properly interpret and understand the Bible. Therefore, they provide the basis to comprehend the Bible's message on homosexuality.

References

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