

SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Genesis 18:16-21

Introduction:

- 1. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is well known.**
 - a. Lot, Abraham's nephew, had moved into Sodom.**
 - b. God determined to destroy these cities because of their sin.**
 - c. He sent two angels to lead Lot and his family out.**

- 2. Lot invited the angels to spend the night in his home.**
 - a. The men of Sodom demanded that Lot bring his guests out "that we may know them carnally" (New King James Version).**
 - b. The Christian Standard Bible translates it: "Send them out so that we can have sex with them" (Gen. 19:5).**
 - c. "Know" is used in the same way it is used in Genesis 4:1.**
 - d. Lot pleaded with the men and even offered his daughters.**
 - e. The angels struck these wicked men with blindness.**

- 3. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone.**

- 4. Jude wrote: "As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire" (v. 7).**

- 5. "Sodomy," an unnatural act, is named after this incident.**
 - a. Every state once had laws against sodomy.**
 - b. All these laws have now been declared "unconstitutional."**

Discussion:

- I. THE GAY AND LESBIAN (HOMOSEXUAL) MOVEMENT IS MAKING AN ALL OUT EFFORT TO FORCE ALL TO ACCEPT THEIR SIN.**
 - A. Five states (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Iowa and New Hampshire) have legalized same sex marriage.**
 - 1. The voters in CA rejected it but the state supreme court is working to overturn the vote of the people.**
 - 2. Maine recently voted down legalizing same sex marriage.**
 - 3. 31 states have adopted constitutional amendments defining marriage as between a man and woman.**
 - 4. Washington DC is the latest battleground.**

 - B. The US Congress has passed a "hate crimes law."**
 - 1. The House approved it 249 to 175.**
 - 2. The Senate tacked it on to a defense spending bill and it passed 68 to 29.**
 - 3. The president signed it into law on October 28, 2009.**

4. This laws means that Christians who speak out against homosexuality will be liable to prosecution should their teachings be linked to an offense against a homosexual (World Net Daily, April 2009).
5. Similar laws in Canada, Sweden, and Australia have sent ministers to jail for teaching what the Bible says.

C. The majority of Americans are opposed to homosexuality.

1. 55 % believe it is a sin.
2. 59 % oppose same sex marriages (Pew Forum: 12-10-09).

II. SOME MAJOR DENOMINATIONS ARE PUSHING THE GAY AGENDA.

A. In 1972 the “United Church of Christ” ordained gay ministers.

B. The Episcopal Church has split since ordaining a gay bishop.

C. The Evangelical Lutheran Church has accepted celibate gay ministers since 1988.

1. Recently, they voted to allow their gay ministers to live with their same sex partners.
2. Recent articles in The Mountain Press have reported the controversy within that denomination.

III. WHY DOES GOD CONDEMN HOMOSEXUALITY?

A. It is contrary to nature as God made us.

1. God created woman for man (Gen. 2:18-25).
2. Woman is “a helper comparable to man.”
3. God ordained that marriage is between a man and a woman: “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female?” (Matt. 19:4).
4. Men with men or women with women cannot perpetuate the human race.

B. God’s attitude toward homosexuality is clear.

1. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of it.
2. It is condemned in the Law of Moses:

“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination” (Lev. 18:22).

“If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them” (Lev. 20:13).

C. Jesus condemned fornication.

1. Fornication on the part of one’s marriage partner gives the innocent partner the right of divorce (Matt. 19:9).

2. “Porneia” which is translated “fornication” includes homosexuality (Arndt & Gingrich Greek Lexicon).

D. Paul listed homosexuality as the depths of depravity:

“For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one for another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due” (Rom. 1:26, 27).

IV. HOMOSEXUALS CAN CHANGE!

A. Some argue one is born a homosexual.

1. This has not been scientifically proved!
2. If one could not help being a homosexual, God would not condemn it as a sin.
3. A psychiatrist told me a homosexual could not help it; I asked him if a homosexual could control himself just as heterosexuals did.

B. Some Corinthians were homosexuals, but they changed!

“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, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God, 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” (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Conclusion:

1. Christians are losing their rights to speak out against evil.
2. We must never “be conformed to this world” (Rom. 12:2).
3. We must always “hate the sin, but love the sinner.”
4. Homosexuals can repent and be saved just like all other sinners.
5. Only those who are “washed, justified, and sanctified” can be saved.