

Homosexuality

Periodically gay people come to my site (Free Christian Counseling) and want to know what I have to say about homosexuality and God. They ask questions like:

1. What's wrong about being gay?
2. Does the Bible condemn gay people?
3. Does God really hate gay people?
4. Do gay people automatically go to hell?
5. How can being gay be wrong if I was born this way?
6. I can't change being gay, so isn't it unfair of God to condemn me?
7. The reason I can't believe in God is because I'm gay.
8. How can being gay be wrong, when it's who I am?
9. How can being gay be wrong when I love my partner and he loves me?

There are lots of other questions that come up besides these, but these are the common ones. I hope you get your own questions answered. After you've finished reading this, I'd like to chat with you more, or you can always email me at allthings@counsellor.com. Or <http://www.stickam.com/profile/will828>

Let me say right up front that I don't hate gays and God doesn't hate gays. I don't hate anyone. I don't think I have felt hate since maybe 3rd grade. Hate is not

part of being an authentic Christian. I know there are so-called Christians who "hate fags"! Any Christian who talks like that is a misinformed person who shouldn't call themselves Christian at all. Furthermore, they are going to face some severe punishment when they face God one day.

Just the opposite is true! God loves you as a person, and I personally respect you as a person. You will not hear anything in this writing that condemns or insults, belittles or judges you; not from me! And not from the God in the Bible, if you understand it properly! If you have heard things like that or believe them, I hope I can correct them for you. However, it is true that God has an unfavorable position on homosexuality.

Here's the dilemma or bind you face! You know in your heart, mind, desires and interests, that when it comes to physical and sexual attraction to another person, you are SSA. That is, you are Same-Sex Attracted! I'll use that term more than homosexuality or gay. You either have no interest in the opposite sex, sexually or physically, or you've tried to, and failed at it. But the problem is that you also believe in God (I guess) and don't want to be going against God. And you've heard or read that God does not approve of gay people and their sexual behavior. This is the primary dilemma you are likely wondering about?

What choice do I have? You say to yourself, "I can't deny my sexual desires and interests as an SSA person. But I can't please God if he is against what are my

natural sexual interests. It's an unfair and unsolvable dilemma. It seems I either have to give up, repress and deny my sexuality, or I have to dismiss God as unfair,

unreasonable and cruel for putting me in this dilemma." So your choices seem to be possibly these three -

1. The Gay choice: Forget about God or find a version of God or a Gay

church, that doesn't mess with your sexuality. You can say "God made me this way!" or God never said he condemns homosexuality; and the Bible is a crock of crap. I've got to, and intend to live as a gay person." This is the gay choice. Benefits and deficits: I'm somewhat at peace with myself, happier and more content. But I may carry a nagging feeling that I'm in trouble with God and might get punished for it.

2. The Conflict choice: Ok, I won't actively live as a gay person with a partner, but I know I can't deny my feelings and I'm going to probably have sex once in awhile, or indulge gay pornography and thoughts and fantasies. I'll do my best to resist them or fight them, but I know I probably will give in periodically. Maybe God will understand and not condemn me, because at least I'm trying to remain faithful to Him. I'll confess my sins when I fail, but there's no guarantee it won't happen again. This is the

Conflict choice. Benefits and deficits: Since I'm trying to please God I shouldn't have to carry any big fears or guilt around with me. But I keep failing and falling into sin and maybe God is displeased with me. I'm not feeling really good about myself.

3. The Resolution Choice: OK, what I'll do is try to resolve and manage my SSA stuff. This is not the same as the Conflict Choice. What this means is that I'll get some counseling help (and other kinds of support) or work alone on settling and managing my SSA, getting to the root causes, figuring out why I am this way. I'll also learn how to manage temptations and maintain self-control. I will try to my best ability to refrain from any actual sex with another person. I may not be 100% successful, but I am 100% on God's side and being obedient to God. This is the Resolution Choice. Benefits and deficits - I know I'm in good standing with God because I am 100% committed to letting God work in my life, heal me, change me. I also feel sad and alone and very vulnerable and sorry when I do sin. I also find that it's hard to give up sex altogether, even though I know it's ok to have a loving relationship with one or more guys.

From my perspective as a Bible believer, (as someone who believes the Bible is the inspired Word of God which reflects the authority, mind and wishes of God), the Gay Choice is highly risky. It puts you squarely at odds with God. You run the risk of being judged by God as an unrepentant sinner. You run the risk of forcing God's hand to condemn you after you die at the time of judgment. But let me also add this! It may not be as black and white as that! The Bible itself says that "men judge people on their outward appearance, but God judges what's in their hearts." This means that it's possible that God may take into account all kinds of factors that we humans do not see. He may know you love him, that you honestly are seeking to know him, please him and honor him. Maybe you once gave your life over to Jesus Christ as your Savior and were saved! No man is in a position to say that you are automatically going to hell. No man is in a position to judge your eternal destiny. If I judge you, I might be judged with the same strict and uninformed standards. I am a sinner also (all people are) so I need to pay attention to my own sins which may be even worse than yours. Only God can judge sinners, only God can forgive sins.

Nevertheless, in saying this, you need to know that the Bible does not portray God as accepting of homosexual behavior. So, don't think I'm taking you off the hook. The Gay Choice remains a risky decision to make!

The Conflict Choice may not be as risky morally, but it is psychologically and emotionally unhealthy for you. You cannot live like this! You can't live in a constant state of turmoil, self-hatred, remorse, guilt, and shame. You can't be good one week and failing the next. Over and over again! You will eventually come to some form of crisis, whether it be emotional, social, legal, or personal. This choice is no choice at all. Yet many people remain in this position for many years.

The Resolution Choice is your best choice. It is based on this passage of the Bible:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 says,

(9) Do you not know that the sinful will not inherit the kingdom of God? Don't deceive yourself: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders

(10) nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

(11) And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

There are some very important points that this passage informs us about in regard to homosexuality. Verses 9-10 is the bad news. Verse 11 is the very good news.

The Bad News

First, it tells us that people who are living a sinful "lifestyle" (these are obviously not one-time sins) cannot "inherit" (not entitled to) God's kingdom. Now let me explain some of these words.

These are not one-time sins. These are people who are caught up in repeated, habitual, addictive sins of one kind or another. They are lifestyles of sin! Lifestyles of stealing, slandering, drunkenness, adultery, and, homosexual behavior! Sinning in any of these ways once, or infrequently; confessing the sin and seeking reconciliation with God, doesn't exclude a person from remaining in God's kingdom. But lifestyles do, because it means the person isn't saved at all, or

is severely backslidden and risks the complete loss of fellowship and displeasure of God.

What is the "kingdom of God?" It is the new, intimate, restored relationship to God the Father (Son and Spirit) which Jesus gives to those who believe in him. "Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful watching for it, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'there it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you." And Paul says, "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple."

The kingdom of God is God, the Spirit, the life of God in you. It's also the rule and reign of God in the world by all those who share the indwelling Spirit in

them. It's also the future kingdom of God as shown in the book of Revelations. It says, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." And when we say in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy kingdom come!"

Now you can't "inherit" the kingdom unless you are a son of the owner. So you have to become a son of the Father. People living the lifestyles listed above cannot become son's of God and enjoy his life or inheritance.

The Good News!

The very good news is this! The people who were caught up in those listed sinful lifestyles changed. For it says, "That's what some of you were!" But they're no longer sinning like that anymore. You don't have to be caught up in continuous adultery, stealing, idolatry, drunkenness, swindling others or slandering others. You don't have to be addicted to homosexuality. You can resolve it and manage it with the help of God's Holy Spirit.

You may always have some SSA feelings and thoughts and even desires. But you don't have to behave that way. You don't have to be continuously engaging in homosexual sinning. You can resolve it and manage such behavior. People are doing this, and many have done it.

How?

How did they begin this process of lifestyle change? By being "washed,.... sanctified,..... justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God"

Washed means being cleaned of all your past homosexual sins through confession of your sins and confession of Name of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior! This is best done with another trusted Christian who can show you how to make such a confession, who will pray for you and with you. When you do this, you become a saved person. The Holy Spirit comes to dwell within you; the power of God begins to work in your life to sanctify you.

Sanctified means that the Holy Spirit will begin a work of spiritual renewal and restoration in you! You will begin to change in a number of ways. You will see most of these 12 signs of being Born-Again:

1. You will pray sincerely and eagerly from the heart. This will be done honestly, willingly, and spontaneously.
2. You will frequently want to praise God and thank Him for His many blessings in your life.
3. You will be interested in searching and understanding the Bible because you now realize that it is God's Word. You will find that He speaks to you personally from His written Word.
4. You will want to share your faith with others and will want to be with others who share your faith.
5. Your attitudes, values, and desires will increasingly be more godly even though you will continue to struggle with the big "H" for a time.
6. You will seek after holiness and goodness and will begin to dislike sin in all its forms.

Homosexual sins will never again be engaged in without some conflict and remorse.

7. You will also begin to feel more self-accepting and properly self-loving. You will also be more tolerant, kind, and loving toward others, but also more eager to see others change their sinful habits.

8. You will sense the Holy Spirit dwelling and acting more powerfully in your heart and life.

9. You will begin to want to know God more intimately and will lovingly and meaningfully begin to call Him Father.

10. You will want to serve God in some way.

11. You will be more aware of sin and Satan in the world and seek to discern good from evil more effectively.

12. You will experience more power; power over sin and Satan.

And lastly, you will be justified. This means that you are being put right with God. He accepts you as His son. You are also entitled to an inheritance of his kingdom, now and forever.

All of this is yours, plus heaven, if you select to deal with your SSA by making the Resolved Choice.

God bless you

Dr Will Romans 8:28