

Sunday 16th July 2017 – Homosexuality?

WELCOME:

This may be a difficult study ... be open to scripture and to one another. Be willing to accept others may not agree with you!

- Share before you debate ... does anyone have friends or relatives who are homosexual or gay?

This is simply to ensure you are aware of how this affects others

WORSHIP:

Read these verses together ... **Psalm 51:1-12**

Have a short time of quiet reflection ... remember that these words were written after a sexual failure by King David.

WORD:

Sex & Marriage:

Read **Genesis 2:24** and **Mark 10:6-9**

The traditional Christian view is that sex should be between a man and a woman in the context of marriage.

- Do you agree?

Homosexuality in Scripture:

Read **Leviticus 18:22** & **Leviticus 20:13** & **1 Cor 6:9-10**

- Clear statements, but do you think they are relevant today?
- Now read **Romans 1:18-27**
- What does St Paul consider homosexual activity to be?
 - What else might he be referring to?
 - What view do you think these passages above present?

Feelings vs Actions? Read **Hebrews 4:15**

- Is it a sin to be tempted?
- Is it therefore sinful to have homosexual feelings?

Is AIDS the judgement of God on Homosexual Practice?

This is a classic argument ... what do you think?

AIDS is *effectus*, natural result, of a promiscuous society/lifestyle. It effects all types of people, not just homosexuals. It is not God's *affectus*, - not his specific judgement on a particular group of people.

Can/Should People be Changed?

- Is homosexuality the worst sin? Go back to some of the passages and see what else is listed as well!
- Is homosexuality the unforgivable sin? (**Matthew 12:31**)

Read **1 Corinthians 6:11**

- What does this tell us about the Christians to whom Paul was writing?

What should our response be?

Read **John 8:1-11**

- What was this woman's sin? (Ref. I Corinthians 6:9-10)
- What was Jesus response to her accusers? (v7)
- What two things does Jesus say to the woman? (v11)

We are called to love people in Christ's name ... but also acknowledge sin as sin. – A difficult balance?

WITNESS:

- What can you, as Christians, living in a fallen society do to 'love people in Christ's name'? – Pray about this.
- Your discussion may have identified some specific issues for people. – Pray for each other appropriately.
- You may have finished with differing views – Pray for the church that it may be a place of truth and love for ALL people.