

Is Homosexuality a sin?

Leviticus 18:22 "Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.

Leviticus 19:19 "Keep my decrees. "Do not mate different kinds of animals. "Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed. "Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material.

Leviticus 19:27-28 "Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard. "Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the LORD.

Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

1 Corinthians 6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are member of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Romans 1:26-27 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Romans 1:21-24 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

The book of Leviticus is a listing of laws given to the Israelites. What does Leviticus 18:22 say about homosexuality? _____.

Compare Leviticus 18:22 to chapter 19:19.

Do some of the Jewish laws seem silly?

The Bible lists 613 laws for the Israelites to follow. How can anyone keep all those laws? How many laws does the United States have?

Read Leviticus 19:27-28. What other things were against the law for the Israelites? How do we feel about doing these things today?

What did the law do for the Israelites? _____.

(Romans 3:20)

Why is homosexuality worse than other sins?

Why does sexual sin seem to be a major issue? Why not be more concerned about tattoos? Read 1 Corinthians 6:15-19 to find out.

Romans 1:26-27 says "Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts." What is the *this* referring to? _____. Read Romans 1:21-24 to find out.

Unnatural sex is a _____ for Idolatry. Who is God punishing? _____.
(Romans 1:27) (Romans 1:18-20 read in your Bible)

What does it mean for God to *give them over* to something?

Researchers think 4.5% of United States population has gender-identity issues. LGBTQ behavior is somewhat due to genetics. The rest is social and environmental factors.

Is being gay (attracted to someone of the same gender) a sin or is the sin only the act of having sex with someone of the same gender?

Refer back to Leviticus 19:19. Your underwear is made of more than one material. Probably cotton and an elastic waist band. Aren't you then just as guilty of sin as a gay person?

James 2:10 *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.*

Other Sexual Behaviors continued

John 8:3-11 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you." Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Romans 8:1-2 (CSB) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus, because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³ God will judge those outside.

1 Corinthians 10:23 (CSB) "Everything is permissible," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible," but not everything builds up.

Philippians 2:3-4 (CSB) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. ⁴ Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

1 Peter 2:17 ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Read John 8:3-11. A woman caught in adultery (having sex with a man other than her husband) is brought to Jesus by church leaders. They wanted to kill her. What punishment does Jesus give her? _____.

In Romans 8:1-2 Paul teaches that there is *no condemnation* for _____.

What does it mean to be "In Christ Jesus?"

How concerned is Paul with people outside of the church? _____
(1 Corinthians 5:12-13)

The Corinthians were focusing on the fact that because there is no longer any condemnation for sin they can pretty much do anything.

Paul says, yes that's true but _____.
What are some non-beneficial effects of sin in a persons life?

Read Philippians 2:3-4. How should we treat people in general?

Everyone is due: _____
(1 Peter 2:17)

Being homosexual, trans-gendered, bisexual, or straight does not matter. Why?

Romans 3:22-24 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

What does matter? _____.

When asked what the most important commandment was Jesus said:

Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Showing love and respect to others is more important than who they are and how they act, or even whether they deserve it.

Is Homosexuality a sin?

The Goal of this Lesson: The goal of this lesson is to give “emerging young adults” the Biblical basis for the belief that homosexuality is a sin like any sin. No worse or less worse than any other sin. Being homosexual does not alienate a person from God’s love or salvation. Church people should in no way condemn a sinner unless they themselves are indeed sinless.

Pre-Lesson Activity: Sin Buckets: Write an action on a scrap of paper. Take two buckets. Suggest things like smoking, tattoos, vaping, wearing underwear, overeating. Toss the action into the “Sin” or “Not Sin” bucket as they decide. Suggest some good thing like feeding the homeless, building a house for a veteran, etc. Later in the lesson when you reach the verse from James 2:10 stack the buckets one into the other. Read Romans 3:21-24

Leading the Lesson: Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind.

Most of the verses used in the lesson are printed in the left column.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go through the questions for those verses. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers. To make it easy the correct answers are underlined within the verses.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

(If your group is younger junior high-age, encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high school-age, just use the questions as discussion starters.)

Here are the answers we are looking for: Sexual relations between two men is detestable.

How many laws does the United State have? No one knows for sure. There are almost 20,000 laws just about the use and ownership of guns. The law made the Israelites aware of their sin. Paul feels that sexual sin is worse than other sins because our bodies are temples for the Holy Spirit. In Romans Paul says unnatural sex is a punishment for idolatry, false teaching, and denying God. Jesus does not punish the woman accused of adultery. There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Paul is not concerned with unbelievers behavior. While there is no condemnation for sin, our sins do have some negative side effects like: disturbing our relationship with God; making us feel guilty; keeping us from excelling in our ministries. We should never look down on anyone. We should consider everyone else as more important than ourselves. Everyone is due respect. Being good examples of the indwelling Holy Spirit by showing love and kindness to others will complement our Christian witness so others will want to know Jesus.

Summary: Review what we learned from the Bible passages: While the Bible doesn’t specifically say the words homosexual, trans-sexual, bi-sexual, or other terms used today we know what sexual immorality is. It is a sin, yes. But, everyone is a sinner. Overeating, smoking, tattoos, speaking badly of others, lying...all sin. Follow-up with lessons: Sin and Sin Nature, Conviction VS Condemnation, and Dropping the Baggage.

Take Prayer Requests

Always ask the kids for prayer request for the next week. Check how things have turned out from the previous weeks’ concerns.