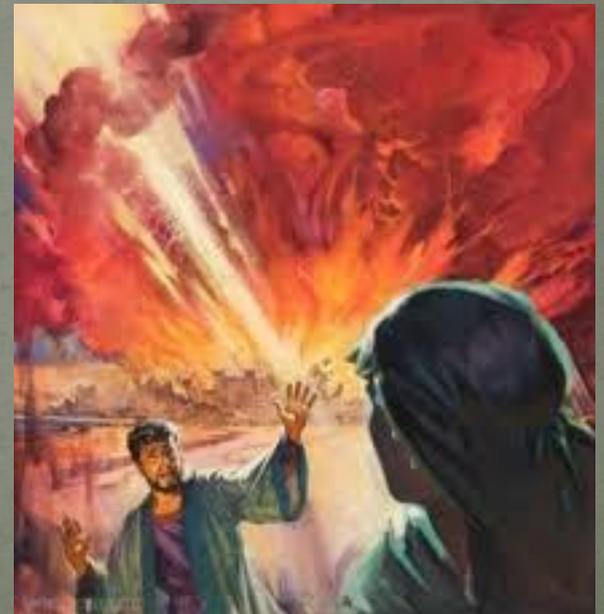


God and Gay Marriage

The Bible and Homosexual Practice

Sodom and Gomorrah

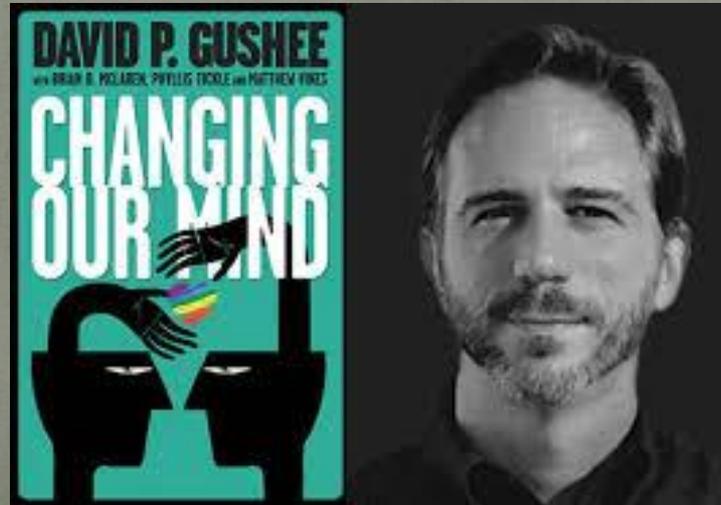
- Genesis 13:13 First statement about Sodom
- Genesis 14:22-24 Abram swears to receive nothing from the king of Sodom
- Genesis 18:16-33 Abraham bargains with God over Sodom
- Genesis 19 Sodom is destroyed



David P. Gushee

(self-described Christian leader)

- “It was once common to interpret this story as a clear indictment on “homosexuality”. Fatefully, of course, the term “Sodomy” is derived from this story... The cultural impact of both the story and the term have been enormous. But now few serious biblical interpreters think this story is about homosexuality at all...”



Sodom: Other Biblical Writers

- Deuteronomy 29 and 32 compare Israel to Sodom and Gomorrah, listing these sins:
 - Idolatry
 - Covenant breaking
- Isaiah 1:9-23 compares Judah to Sodom and lists:
 - Faithless , meaningless worship
 - Oppressing the weak
 - Rebelliousness
 - Murder
 - Thievery
 - Bribery and corruption

Sodom: Other Biblical Writers

- Isaiah 3:9 lists:
 - “parading their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it.”
- Jeremiah 23 lists:
 - Adultery
 - False prophecy
 - Idolatry
 - Unanimous, pervasive wickedness



Sodom: Other Biblical Writers

- Jeremiah 49 and 50 compares Edom and Babylon to Sodom and lists:
 - Pride
 - Opposition to Israel
 - Idolatry
- Ezekiel 46:49 (NIV): “Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me.”

Sodom: Other Biblical Writers

- Amos 4 compares Israel to Sodom and lists:
 - Oppressing the poor
 - Drunkenness
 - Idolatry
 - False worship & offerings
- Zephaniah 2 compares Moab and Ammon to Sodom and lists:
 - Insulting and mocking Israel
 - Pride

Sodom: Other Biblical Writers

- Matthew 10: 14-15 (NIV): “If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.” (also Luke 10:10-12)
- 2 Peter 2:6-10 lists:
 - Ungodliness
 - Lawlessness
 - Filthiness
 - Sexual immorality
 - Despising authority
 - Arrogance



Sodom: Other Biblical Writers

Jude 6-8 (NIV): And the angels who did not keep their own home- these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings...

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- Sodom was known as a place of evil
- Abraham saved the king of Sodom but clearly despised him and wanted nothing to do with him
- God sent His angels as a test- to see what the men of Sodom would do. They failed spectacularly.

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- So... this was about sex, rape, humiliation, and power
- Why did the men of Sodom desire the angels so much? Was it because the angels were beautiful but not concupiscent?

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- What does this story of violence and rape have to do with loving, committed same-sex relationships?
- Good question! It does not seem to bear much resemblance to it. Score one for the revisionists.
- However, this story has a clear climax. The sin and ungodliness of Sodom increased until “every man in the city- both young and old-” participated in the proposal of homosexual rape of angels.

The Point

- The sin is cumulative- there is a point where the people of Sodom are sold out to pride, greed, gluttony, corruption, cruelty, inhospitality, and sexual immorality, and are so utterly self-absorbed and focused on their own will and pleasure that God damns them pre-emptively. The Creator and Judge decides that they and their descendents are not redeemable.

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- Today, LGBT in the US is 3-5% of the population.
- This story tells us that number will grow.
- Consider this: When I was a teenager, 1978-1985, there were a few choices:
 - Biologically male or female sex
 - Straight but if gay you probably kept it in the closet
 - There were transgender people, cross-dressers, and a few revolutionaries who were receiving what is now know as “gender re-assignment” treatment and surgery. Every one of them lived far away in New York or San Francisco.
- Basically you had about 6 options

Today's options

- Today's teens are urged to consider and explore all kinds of options as they become aware of their own sexuality:
 - Biologically male or female: but you can change that
 - Choose a gender or go back and forth
 - Choose a sexual orientation

Today's Options

- Children and teens are presented with options like:
- Biologically male, but psycho-socially female, get gender-reassignment procedures, sexual orientation-lesbian.
- Biologically female, psycho-socially female, sexual orientation- heterosexual.
- Biologically female, psycho-socially male, get gender-reassignment procedures, sexual orientation- bisexual.
- Add to this the commonly accepted concept in our society that sex/gender proclivities cannot, and should not be changed, and you have a recipe for Sodom.

Rosaria Butterfield- what to do



When I started meeting with Ken and Floy Smith and reading the Bible, I had a faithful church praying and waiting for me. I also had faithful Christian neighbors... I had people who loved me enough to tell me the truth. They loved me enough to make sure that the Bible in its entirety had full reign in our conversations and our relationship. They showed me good practices—daily Bible reading, Psalm singing, family devotions—and kept me accountable to them. They showed by example what a life looked like that allowed the Bible and its teachings to interrogate it. They showed me by example what godly sacrifice looks like. They did not sugar-coat God's call on our lives, His claim on our identity (and sexuality), and the many treasures He gives us here on earth as well as in the life after this one. They made me know that there is no isolation in the Christian life. I was welcome, with all of my struggles, to join them. They did not act as if I was polluting them with my struggles or my questions. They showed me that real Christian living means leaning hard on the Bible and on Christ, on applying our faith as a life condition (the just shall live by faith). They also helped me to see that our job in this life is to listen to God, not listen to ourself.