

God and Gay Marriage

The Bible and Homosexual Practice

The “Vice Lists” of Paul

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- The vice lists contain behaviors that cannot be a part of faithful Christian living.
- In I Corinthians 6:9-11 and I Timothy 8-10 these vice lists traditionally include homosexual practice.
- Disputes about these passages focus on translation.

I Corinthians 6:9-11

- Read Verses 9-11
- KJV: 9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [*malakoi*], nor abusers of themselves with mankind [*arsenokoitai*], 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

I Corinthians 6:9-11

- Geneva Bible 1599: 9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor wantons [*malakoi*], nor buggers [*arsenokoitai*], 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor railers, nor extortioners shall inherit the kingdom of God.

I Corinthians 6:9-11

- NIV: 9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with other men [*arsenokoitai*] 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.
- Here we see the problem with paraphrasing: the *malakoi* term is completely left out, perhaps lumped with “sexually immoral”.

I Corinthians 6:9-11

- What do *malakoi* and *arsenokoitai* mean?
- *Malakoi* literally means “the soft ones”
- *Arsenokoitai* literally means “male-bedders” or “males who take other males to bed”.

“Malakoi”

Matthew Vines



- *Malakoi* “encompasses an entire disposition toward immoderation”.
- In other words, it does not necessarily mean “effeminate”. It may mean (in its ancient context) a man who is weak, cowardly, or submissive- like women were considered to be in ancient times. A man who has no self-discipline and is given to excesses of lust, greed, gluttony or other vices.

“Malakoi”

Robert Gagnon



- There is strong evidence that the word *malakoi* referred to “males playing the female role in sexual intercourse with other males”.
- Philo, a first-century Jew, “twice uses the work *malakia*... in his discussion of homosexual behavior in *Spec. Laws* 3.37-42 to refer to the behavior of passive homosexual partners who cultivate feminine features.”

“Malakoi” Robert Gagnon



- Re: the “exploitation” argument: “To argue that Philo or Paul were only concerned with exploitative [paederastic] same-sex relationships is to argue from an oxymoron, because for Philo and Paul same-sex relationships were inherently exploitative. The moment a man takes another male to bed he distorts and diminishes the other male’s sexual identity as created and ordained by God, regardless of whether the relationship is fully consensual and non-commercial.”

“Arsenokoitai”

Matthew Vines



- “In Greek, *arsen* means ‘male’ and *koites* means ‘bed’, typically with a sexual connotation.”
- Vines goes on to argue that this does not necessarily mean homosexual practice, but if it does, it means it in an exploitative, pederastic way.
- Vines cites two ancient sources, the *Sybilline Oracles* and *To Autolychus* as references. He argues that context implies the word only means exploitative sex.

“Arsenokoitai”

Robert Gagnon



- Gagnon cites ten cases in ancient texts where *arsenokoitai* is used to refer to homosexual practice.
- His sources include Greek, rabbinical Jew, Egyptian, and early Christian authors
- In the end, the argument that the use of the work *arsenokoitai* either does not refer to homosexual practice, or that it only refers to exploitative homosexual practice, is fatally weak. A word that contains “man” and “bed” and appears in a list of sins that are so bad they cause one to be excluded from the kingdom of heaven?
- It means the same thing that Leviticus 18 and 20 mean: a man [any man] who lies with another man as with a woman. No exceptions.

3 Unbiblical Points Rosaria Butterfield

- <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/you-are-whatand-howyou-read/>
- Rosaria Butterfield gives a masterful summation of the unbiblical ways that sexual sin is viewed by Christians and non-Christians alike

False teachers

The apostle Paul warned of teachers like the heretical Revisionist authors we have studied in this class.

2 Timothy 4:1-8 tells us how to deal with these teachers.

Jesus passes judgment on them in Matthew 18:2-7



Righteous Anger

- In the introduction to this class, we discussed righteous anger.
- It is not righteous to be angry with people who do not know God or the Scripture and do not follow it.
- However, false teachers should be corrected and rebuked by those who do know God and the Scripture.
- ‘Nuff said about that!

The Hard Part

- It is relatively easy to find where Scripture condemns homosexual practice
- It is a little harder to refute the revisionist heresy that claims the Scriptures do NOT condemn homosexual practice- but not that hard. The arguments are weak.
- What IS hard is
 - Living with and loving homosexual friends and family members but not supporting their choices
 - Reaching out to people in the gay community in a loving way
 - Welcoming LGBT people into our church or circle of friends

OK. So What About Gay Marriage?

- Let's ask this question first- What is marriage?
- Write your answer on a sticky-note and we will compare next week.