Gay Christianity—Is It An Acceptable Moral Choice?

... "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." John 8:11 (New King James Version)

How do pro-gay Christians argue their point? They take Scriptures with which all believers are familiar and give them an entirely <u>new interpretation</u>. (See John Boswell's *Christianity*, *Social Tolerance*, *and Homosexuality*)

Truth #1: GOD INTENDS THAT SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS <u>BE LIMITED</u>
TO THE HETEROSEXUAL UNION BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN
IN MARRIAGE. See Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18, 23-24 (New International Version)

The pro-gay argument: "This Genesis account doesn't forbid homosexuality; after all, it doesn't even mention homosexuality."

Biblical response: While this passage doesn't forbid homosexual behavior, it does establish God's <u>primary model</u> for sexuality.

 Truth #2: THE SIN OF SODOM WAS <u>HOMOSEXUAL</u> BEHAVIOR. See Genesis 19:4-8 (NIV)

The pro-gay argument: "Lack of hospitality was the sin of Sodom."

Biblical response: Hebrew = yada – translated in the NIV "have sex with" – can mean simply "to know," but it is the context that lets the reader know the true meaning. Here the context is clear.

... just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. Jude 7 (English Standard Version)

• Truth #3: UNDER <u>OLD TESTAMENT LAW</u>, HOMOSEXUAL PRACTICE WAS ONE OF MANY PRACTICES PUNISHABLE BY DEATH.

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. Leviticus 18:22 (ESV) See also Leviticus 20:13 (ESV).

The pro-gay argument: "No, it's not homosexual practice; it's idolatrous homosexuality that is condemned."

Biblical response: "Abomination" = *toevah* = God's abhorrence of evil, not just idolatry.

There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him. Proverbs 6:16 (ESV)

Many moral commandments of the OT are <u>specifically renewed</u> in the NT and are binding for believers.

• Truth #4: <u>UNREPENTANT SINNERS</u>, INCLUDING THOSE WHO PRACTICE HOMOSEXUALITY, ARE UNDER A DEATH SENTENCE.

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

The pro-gay argument: "Paul is not describing true homosexuals here, but heterosexuals who practice homosexuality, and thus 'change their nature,' which is something God abhors."

Biblical response: Paul's words do not imply that he even recognizes such a thing as a "true" homosexual versus a "false" homosexual. He condemns homosexual behavior as unnatural, no matter who commits it.

 Truth #5: HOMOSEXUALITY AND HOMOSEXUAL PROSTITUTION ARE SINS THAT, WHEN PRACTICED IN DEFIANCE OF GOD, EXCLUDE THAT PERSON FROM GOD'S KINGDOM. See 1 Corinthians 6: 9-11 (ESV)

The pro-gay argument: "Paul is referring to homosexual prostitution."

Biblical response: Greek = *arsenokoitai*; it comes from *arsenos* and *koite*. *Arsenos* refers a male or males; *koite* means bed or couch used in a sexual connotation.

Arsenokoitai copies the Hebrew concept in Leviticus 18:22.

Hebrew = *mishkab zakur* comes from *mishkab* which refers to a male or males, and *zakur* which means bed or couch with a sexual connotation.