

JESUS ON HOMOSEXUALITY

It is claimed that Jesus said nothing about homosexual practices, not even one word. This is an apparent effort to set Christians who object to homosex against Jesus and thus negate their opposition.

So, how about it, did Jesus say anything specifically about homosexuality. No, not as far as the written records (the four Gospels) reveal. Neither, however, did he ever say anything specifically about bestiality, incest, necrophilia, or pedophilia. Therefore, if homosexual practice is acceptable because Jesus never condemned it specifically, then so also must be these items. In which case the pedophilic American Man-Boy Love Association isn't so bad after all, nor the deed of the Portland man who raped the corpse of a deceased 90 year old woman. Brings to mind the polemic adage, "What proves too much proves nothing!"

But again, did Jesus say anything at all about these perverse practices, at least by implication? Oh yes, he most certainly did.

Remember that Jesus was born a Jew under the Law of Moses that governed the Jews (Matthew 1:1ff; Galatians 4:4). Further, his teaching was designed to call the Jews of the Old Testament to repentance in accordance with that law (Matthew 4:17; 5:17-20; 23:1-3).

Jewish religious authorities (Pharisees and scribes) had ceremonialized such things as hand washing (Matthew 15:1f). Jesus rebuffed their failure to emphasize the spiritual focus of the worship of God the law intended (:3-11). Later, Jesus rebuffed his own disciples for their lack of understanding that it is not what a man eats that defiles him but, rather, those things that proceed from his heart: evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies (12-20).

The word that catches our attention here is *fornications*. It is from the Greek term *porneia*. It means "...illicit sexual intercourse in general" (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, pp. 531, 532).

So, did the Law of Moses that Jesus was enjoining on his fellow Jews classify homosexual practices as fornicative, i.e., illicit sexual intercourse? Yes, clearly condemning its practice (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13).

This then is what Jesus taught on homosexuality. How about the ones he sent, his apostles, to declare his New Covenant, including man's conduct in sexual matters? One of them, Paul, describe the homosexual practices of the ancient world as vile, unnatural, shameful, and debased (Romans 1:26-28). Clear and impossible to misunderstand, isn't it? Unless one's love for sin exceeds his love for God. —Jerry F. Bassett