

The Truth About "Homophobia"

by Bob Pulliam

A new word has been created in my life-time. It's not a word to be proud of, because it reflects the morals of our time. The word is "Homophobia". I can't look in my Webster's dictionary to give you a definition because it came out in 1982, and this word came out since then. The word literally means "the fear of (phobia) homosexuality (homo)". It is used of anyone who denies the right of others to live in such relationships. We are told (by some psychiatrists) that we condemn homosexuals because we are afraid of such sexual proclivities. We fear confrontation by their presence, or perhaps the future possibility that we may exhibit such tendencies. The field of psychology has yet to prove such a classification of fear (homophobia), although the media would have us believe that it has. Many psychologists actually doubt and/or reject the homophobic concept for those who condemn homosexuality. All of this really amounts to one thing: the wicked are pictured as correct and innocent, and the righteous are viewed as sick because they condemn the wicked. Reminds me of what Isaiah wrote:

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa 5:20)

When stated in such a way, the matter becomes a "blame-shifting game". Who's really right or wrong? Should it surprise us that people who do not believe the Bible, and even attack it, would uphold such a vile wickedness as homosexuality? They have no knowledge other than their vanity and desires. God's word clearly shows us several things about homosexuality:

It Is Perverse...

In the beginning God created man, and then created the woman for the man. The intended relationship is man with woman. Not man with man, nor woman with woman. The functions of each prove this beyond doubt. Can two men bear a child? Can two women bear a child? God's will, then, can be seen in revelation (Genesis 1 & 2), and in function.

God Will Punish...

Genesis 19 clearly shows the mind of God on the subject of homosexuality. The extremity of this depravity is seen in the actions of "the men of the city" (v4). The apostle Paul pointed out God's condemnation of such.

"For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. (Rom 1:26 & 27)

In I Corinthians 6:9, homosexuality is listed among the sins which will keep one from inheriting the kingdom of God.

It Is Not A Genetic Defect...

As I noted above, some in the field of psychiatry would have us believe that homosexuality is a chemical imbalance, or genetic defect. The media and motion picture industry report on the matter as if this has been proven. Has it? There have also been indications that it is caused by the rejection, or alienation, of an individual's father. Such also is not proven. But there are a few things I do know from science and what the Bible says.

1) If homosexuality is genetic, then it cannot be the fault of the homosexual (and this is why many prefer this explanation). Genetics are not the fault of the father, mother or child. Genetics involve a random occurrence. Such a random occurrence could not be blamed on the child.

2) As seen earlier, the Bible places blame on the homosexual. Note particularly I Corinthians 6:9, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived, neither fornicators,... nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,... nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified..." If it were genetic, these people could not help but have these tendencies; but the Bible condemns them! God's condemnation falls upon such because he had a purpose for man and woman, and homosexuality is a perversion of that purpose. They are the "unrighteous", not the genetically deformed. Notice also that Paul wrote, "and such were some of you". People who say they can't help having such sexual tendencies are woefully deceived.

Was Paul disturbed?...

I've heard some contend that Paul was sexually disturbed, and for this reason had his particular views on women and homosexuals. We've already seen the sins of Sodom in Gen 19. God's wrath against Sodom came long before Paul was born. Was Paul so sexually disturbed in observing the actions of God toward such people in the past? We don't have to merely take Paul's word for how God feels about homosexuality. We can look at the past as he does in Romans 1. If Paul was disturbed, then how disturbed was Jesus? Jesus obviously approved of the destruction of Sodom; and that being the case, disapproved of the sin which brought that destruction (Lk 17:28 & 29). Perhaps Peter was also disturbed. He calls forth the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah as examples of how God truly will punish the wicked (II Pt 2:4 -12). And what of Jude, who points out the "sexual immorality" of Sodom and Gomorrah. He said that these "are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." (Jd 7).

I Do Have A Phobia...

That's right, I do have a phobia (fear). It isn't "homophobia". I deny that such a thing exists. Such is simply an effort to discredit the truth of God's creation, and His word, that homosexuality is a sin. You see, the word "phobia" is from a Greek word that is found in the Bible (phobos) which means "fear". This word is used in Acts 9:31 ("fear of the Lord"); Rom 3:18 and Eph 5:21 ("fear of God"); and I Pt 1:17; I Pt 3:2 & 15. This fear of God is not a dread fear, or terror (except to evil-doers). To the righteous it is a reverential fear. A fear of displeasing, rather than a terror of punishment. We need to have a phobia of displeasing God. Homosexuality displeases God, and therefore I reject it. My phobia, however, is not "homophobia". My phobia is of displeasing the Creator who has shown us that homosexuality is a sin.

Conclusion...

There is no such thing as "homophobia". Homosexuals are lacking a phobia that they should have... A fear of God! Homosexuals are not such because they have been forced to it by genetic circumstances. Homosexuals have a choice, and God condemns the choice they are making. Homosexuality is a sin that will eventually bring sorrow in this life, and eternal destruction in the life to come.