



# The Burning Bush - Online article archive

## The Matter of Homosexuality, Lesbianism, Same-Sex Marriages etc.

by Bob Burton

### PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS

This matter has become so important in our modern society that committed Christians should all possess a working knowledge of what the Holy Scriptures have to say about it. And those committed Christians will, of course, depend on what the Holy Scriptures have to say as a basis for their understanding. There are three important guidelines which must be the basis for any Christian belief and Christian doctrine. They are:

**1. Human laws and human systems simply do not work.** Our Lord has informed us that 'The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God' (1 Corinthians 3:19) so it is useless to base our actions and our attitudes on worldly ideas. Besides, St Paul has warned us 'Be not conformed to this world [systems].' (Romans 12:2a)

**2. The only guide to absolute truth is The Holy Scripture.** No other system of law or governance will work. We see that in almost every country in the world today, even in the Western Democracies where human laws are all declining and society is descending into failure and chaos. The writer of The Proverbs explains this problem: 'There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.' (Proverbs 16:25)

**3. One of the greatest problems facing Christians who seek to understand important issues today is the almost total emphasis on the New Testament in most Christian Churches.** Whenever an important social or religious issue arises, preachers will dive into their own understanding of the New Testament without referring to the Old Testament as a basis for the truth. In the Gospel as recorded by St Matthew, Jesus pointed to the foundation truths written by the Prophets and He warned us: 'Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the Prophets [What the Prophets have written]: I am come to fulfil.' (Matthew 5:17) So trying to explain important issues using only quotes from The New Testament might be compared to attempting to build a new house by starting on the roof before putting down the foundations and erecting the walls.

There are some vital and relevant Scriptures that are so important that we should always have them in the back of our minds when we are considering important issues:

'I am The Lord, I change not.' (Malachi 3:6) So what is true in the Old Testament is surely true in the New.

'The Law of The Lord is perfect, converting the soul.' (Psalm 19:7a) In the Hebrew, the term 'converting or restoring the soul' means 'turning the soul back to Almighty God.' So obedience to His Laws turns our souls back to God.

Most Christians know that Jesus commanded us: 'If you love Me, keep My commandments.' (John 14:15)

Could anything be clearer?

'Be thou Holy for I am Holy.' (Proverbs 16:25) That is a commandment!

And the writer of 1 John informs us: 'For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.' (1 John 5:3 ) [i.e. Keeping His commandments is not burdensome!]

And also: 'And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.' (1 John 2:3)

In The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus also gave us further direction: 'For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.' (Matthew 5:18)



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So the Law of Almighty God is surely in operation today as it was when handed down by Moses and the Holy Prophets and fulfilled by Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Redeemer.

### THE LAW IN RESPECT OF SAME-SEX ACTS

Our Lord's attitude to same-sex acts is clearly set out early in the Holy Scriptures.

The Divine Law given to Moses to pass on to his people is:

'If a man lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.' (Leviticus 20:13) KJV. (Emphasis Added)

We should note that the term 'abomination' as used in the King James or Authorised Translation is # 8441 in Doctor Strong's Concordance. It is written as 'Tôw 'êbâh' in the original Hebrew and it has the meaning of 'something disgusting' especially as in a disgusting custom such as idolatry. It can be argued strongly that 'something disgusting' is probably not a strong enough translation since the penalty for a same-sex act, as given by Almighty God, is execution. Although the executioners among His people were absolved from guilt or any sin when they executed people caught in a same-sex situation, ['their blood shall be upon them'] they were given extra protection when such offenders were to be stoned to death in Ancient Israel. For example, any Israelite who gave his/her children to the heathen god, Molech, was to be stoned to death (Leviticus 20:2) as were any wizards or those dabbling in the occult. (Leviticus 20:27) The act of stoning a sinful person to death, under the Law of God, meant that the person's death was brought about by a number of people and not by any individual and thus, any individual could not be identified as the executioner.

### THE EXAMPLE OF THE CITIES OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH

The distressing story of these sinful cities and some smaller cities around them, is given as an example to us in Genesis 18:20 through Genesis 19:25. Sodom and Gomorrah were centres of homosexual activity. When two angels visited Lot, Abraham's nephew, who was living in the City of Sodom, the menfolk of Sodom surrounded Lot's house and demanded that the angels come out and have sex with them. (Genesis 19:5) Lot begged them not to act wickedly and even offered to send out his two virgin daughters in the place of the Angels but the men of Sodom refused that offer and attempted to gain entry into Lot's home by breaking down the door. (Genesis 19:7-9). Fortunately, Lot and his family were saved by the Angels who struck the men of Sodom with blindness before arranging Lot's immediate family's escape from the city. We should note that Abraham petitioned Almighty God on behalf of the people of Sodom. He was very concerned that righteous people would be destroyed along with the unrighteous. Unfortunately, although The Almighty was prepared to spare the city if there were as few as ten God-fearing people in it, those ten righteous people could not be found (Genesis 18:23-33) so The Lord rained fire and brimstone from heaven upon Sodom, its sister city Gomorrah and some smaller cities around them, totally destroying them. (Genesis 19:24) Indeed, the very location of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah remained unknown to the world for over 3,800 years.

Nowadays, it is reported that the exact location of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah is known and it is possible to join daily tours to their sites where tourist can dig up pieces of sulphur, the modern name for brimstone.

### ISRAEL FOLAU'S STAND

Israel Folau, who is one of the finest Rugby Union players in the world and also a devout Christian, has come out against modern sinful behaviour and has preached against it. He has strongly urged his fellow Australians to repent of such sinful acts as drunkenness, homosexuality, adultery, lying, fornicating, thievery, atheism and idolatry. He has suggested that such sinners must repent or face being sent to hell.

As a result of his stance against sin, Folau's lucrative contract was torn up by the hierarchy of the Australian Rugby Union and he has been savagely attacked in the media and the court system by LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning) leaders, not only here in Australia, but around the world.



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Folau has not preached anything new; he has simply reiterated what Bible writers and devout Christian preachers have been teaching for almost 2,000 years. The Epistle of Jude, which may have been written by a relative of Jesus sometime near the end of the first century A.D., has this as a warning:

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” (Jude 1:7)

Whilst Mr Folau has had to suffer sustained condemnation, rejection and abuse (including some from famous Rugby Union players) both in the media and by prominent people all over the world, there has been an encouraging upside to the whole controversy. The whole matter has been referred to The High Court of Australia which has been asked to rule on whether his dismissal contravenes Australia’s Fair Work Laws as well as the important concept of free speech.

And there is another pleasing development. Many, many Australians whom we may describe as ‘Passive Christians’ since they are not actively attending Churches or being involved in Christian activities, are undergoing a resurgence of their faith and are openly supporting Mr Folau and what he stands for.

### THE EMERGENCE OF THE HIV OR AIDS VIRUS

The latter part of the 20th century, especially from 1981 onward, saw the rapid spread of the immunodeficiency virus often referred to as AIDS or HIV, principally among homosexual males in Central Africa, New York, Haiti, San Francisco and parts of Japan. Some researchers believe that this deadly virus originated among primates in Central Africa before somehow making a transition to humans, but nobody has yet established the exact origin of the virus nor how that transition took place. And no-one has yet explained why it principally occurs in the homosexual community. Many committed Christians believe that it is a punishment imposed by Almighty God.

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a fatal virus that attacks a person’s immune system. The immune system becomes weaker, making it harder for the body to fight off serious infections and some kinds of cancers. If left untreated, a person with HIV will only survive for about three years. Deaths from HIV in the USA appeared to peak in 1995 by which time some 50,000 individuals, including some very famous people, had succumbed to it. Even at this time, July, 2019, no effective vaccine has so far been developed to immunize a person against HIV/AIDS.

Since the HIV pandemic exploded around the world, thinking Christians have been considering whether it may be the result of a truth that St Paul recorded for us in his The Epistle to the Romans. He had this to say:

‘For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.’ (Romans 1:26-27)

Every Christian, and indeed every person, should understand that breaking the laws of Almighty God has consequences.

St Paul recognized this as he penned an important Epistle to the True Believers at Corinth:

‘Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God.’ (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)



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Certainly, no True Believer among Christians would dare to argue with St Paul as he recorded the above verses under the direction of The Holy Spirit.

### A VERY SAD QUEST

Genes are chromosomes containing the recipe for making a living thing. They are found in almost every cell's nucleus and are made from strands of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). Segments of DNA called 'genes' are the ingredients. Each gene adds a specific protein to the recipe. Proteins build, regulate and maintain our human bodies. For instance, they build bones; enable muscles to move, control digestion, and keep your heart beating.

And, of course, they determine our sexual activity.

Evidence is currently coming to light that certain supporters of same-sex activity in the medical profession are working hard in an attempt to prove that humans are born with an arrangement of their genes that causes them to become susceptible to same-sex activity. Were researchers able to identify such genes, same-sex adherents would then be able to claim that they were born that way and that it would be impossible for them to change their sexual orientation.

Such researchers are doomed to disappointment in their sad quest. In the New Testament, The Gospel of John informs us that everything was created by Christ. (John 1:3) Christ also, as part of His perfect creation, made The Law of God which the Psalmist tells us is perfect. (Psalm 19:7a) Now, as we have already suggested from Leviticus 20:13, and later from what St Paul recorded in 1Corinthians 6:9-10, we know that same-sex activity is an abomination to Almighty God so it is impossible to even consider that Christ, during His work of creation, would create a person [formed in the image of Almighty God. Genesis 1:27] that was an abomination to Him.

And there is a wonderful promise that must be recognised by all Christians and which is given to us in St Luke's Gospel which assures us that for True Christians '...nothing is impossible with God.' (Luke 1:37a.)

So same-sex adherents may change and become normal if they truly believe in Christ!

I repeat, they can escape from any thought relating to homosexuality if they truly believe in Christ!

### IMPORTANT WARNINGS IN HOLY SCRIPTURE

The Prophet Amos has given us a very important Scripture to retain in the back of our minds. It relates to warnings given to us from Almighty God:

'Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.' (Amos 3:7)

So Almighty God will not act decisively unless He has given us a direct warning first.

As we have already shown, the Patriarch Abraham knew beforehand exactly what was going to happen to the doomed cities around Sodom and Gomorrah. That is why he attempted to intervene on their behalf and save them from total annihilation.

In the same way, there are some vital warnings that should be understood by everyone in our present generation.

Some important warnings for every sinner to heed are:

'For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?' (Mark 8:36)

And St Matthew has some equally chilling words of warning for those who sin, including, of course, those who engage in same-sex activities. At some time, very likely in the near future:



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'The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity.' (Matthew 13:41)

And unlike Abraham, we are unlikely to know the exact hour:

'Therefore be ye also ready . . . . Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.' (Matthew 24:44 & Luke 12:40.)

Clearly, those involved in same-sex relationships are living on borrowed time!

And St Peter has a further solemn reminder to us:

'For the eyes of The Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of The Lord is against them that do evil.' (1 Peter 3:12)

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

As committed Christians we should always be in a position to help and to advise those who are caught up in the sins relating to homosexuality, lesbianism, same-sex marriages and the like. Fortunately, and as we would expect, Our Lord has left us with some very clear Scriptural guidance. In the Book of Acts, St Peter was addressing the sins of the people around him, in this case the crucifixion of Jesus, the Saviour of the World.

The people were convicted of their great sin:

'Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' (Acts 2:37)

Speaking under the guidance of The Holy Spirit, St Peter had this answer for them:

'... Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of The Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38a) [Emphasis Added]

And St Peter had some very sound advice to us when we are faced with the problem of counselling unbelievers:

'But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.' (1 Peter 3:15)

Clearly, when we, as committed Christians are dealing with people involved in same-sex activities, we must know our Scripture, we must genuinely strive to support them and we must treat them with great Christian love and compassion.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

Bob Burton. July, 2019.