

Title: Embracing God's Design: A Biblical Perspective on Same-Sex Relationships OT

Sermon Series: The Bible and the Social Issues

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Introduction:

Today, we are faced with many conflicting views on same-sex relationships. Some argue that such relationships are a natural expression of love, while others contend that they are contrary to God's design. As Christians, it is crucial for us to approach this topic with a deep understanding of what the Bible teaches. Let us delve into the Scriptures to gain insight into this critical challenge.

Point 1: Genesis 19:1-29

Theological Relevance:

- This passage narrates the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, where the men of the city desired to engage in same-sex acts with the angels who visited Lot. The city was destroyed by God due to its wickedness.

- The argument that the sin of Sodom was not “ Sexual Immorality including Same-Sex.”

Ezequiel 16:49-50⁴⁹ “Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. ⁵⁰They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore, I did away with them as you have seen.

Jude 7: 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.

However, this passage context highlights Nonconsensual sexual relationships, and the question today is about Consensual same-sex relationships. We cannot deny the biblical text the message that same-sex relationships are not licit and are not God's design. And making it nonconsensual is even a greater sin.

God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah highlights the seriousness of sexual immorality and the consequences of deviating from His design for human relationships.

It serves as a reminder that God's standards are unchanging, and we are called to uphold them in our lives.

Correlation: Genesis 19:1-11 & Judges 19:22-30

Theological Relevance:

- These passages depict instances of sexual immorality and depravity leading to tragic consequences.
- They serve as cautionary tales, warning us of the destructive nature of indulging in sinful desires.
- By highlighting the importance of purity and righteousness, they remind us of the need to align our lives with God's will.

Call to Action:

1. We must uphold the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman, as God established in the Bible.
2. We should be compassionate towards those struggling with same-sex attraction, offering love and support while gently pointing them towards God's truth.
3. We must be vigilant against societal pressures that seek to normalize behavior contrary to God's Word.
4. We must guard our hearts and minds against temptation, seeking accountability and support from fellow believers.
5. We should strive for sexual purity in thought, word, and deed, honoring God with our bodies.
6. We must remember that repentance and forgiveness are available to all who turn to God in humility and sincerity.

Point 2: Leviticus 18:22; 20:13

The Book of Leviticus in the Old Testament primarily contains three types of laws:

1. ****Moral Laws****: These laws pertain to ethical behavior and relationships, such as prohibitions against theft, lying, and sexual immorality. They are timeless principles that provide a moral foundation.
2. ****Ceremonial Laws****: These laws relate to Israel's worship practices, including sacrifices, rituals, festivals, dietary restrictions, and cleanliness. They were designed to make the Israelites distinct and to structure their religious life. All ceremonial laws have been fulfilled by Jesus' death on the Cross as the Ultimate sacrifice for our Sins.
3. ****Civil or Judicial Laws****: These laws governed the behavior of the Israelites in their community and included regulations for property, restitution, and justice. They provided social and legal order. The purpose of these Laws is to teach us how the people of God governed their lives as Theocratic and Secular Governments.

Applying the Levitical Laws Today

Moral Laws:

- These laws are considered timeless and universally applicable. They align with the ethical teachings of Jesus and the apostles. Christians can live out these principles by adhering to moral behaviors such as honesty, integrity, and love for others.

Ceremonial Laws:

- Christians believe that Jesus' sacrifice fulfilled the ceremonial laws, so they are no longer required to follow the specific rituals and sacrifices described in Leviticus.
- However, the underlying principles, such as the pursuit of holiness and reverence for God, can still be honored. This could include maintaining a spirit of worship, purity, and devotion in one's life.

Civil or Judicial Laws:

- These laws were specific to the societal context of ancient Israel. Modern societies have their legal systems, so these laws are not directly applicable today.
- The principles behind these laws, such as justice, fairness, and the protection of the vulnerable, can still be relevant. Modern believers can advocate for and practice justice and compassion in their communities.

Theological Relevance: **Leviticus 18:22; 20:13 as A Moral Law is Timeless**

- These verses explicitly condemn homosexual behavior as sinful before God.
- The laws given in Leviticus were intended to guide God's people in holy living, reflecting His moral standards.
- They underscore the importance of honoring God's commands in all aspects of our lives, including our sexuality.

Practical Principles of Action:

1. We must submit to the authority of Scripture, even when it challenges popular cultural norms.
2. We should engage in respectful dialogue with those who hold differing views on same-sex relationships, sharing the truth in love.
3. We must seek to cultivate a biblical worldview that informs our decisions and actions in all areas of life.

Quote from a Contemporary Theologian:

“In a culture that often celebrates individual autonomy and self-expression, we are called to submit our desires and choices to the authority of Scripture, trusting in God’s wisdom and love for us.”

Conclusion:

As we navigate the complexities of contemporary debates on same-sex relationships, let us anchor ourselves in the timeless truths of Scripture. By upholding God's design for human sexuality and relationships, we can experience His grace and live in alignment with His purposes for our lives.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant us wisdom and discernment as we seek to understand Your will regarding same-sex relationships. Help us to demonstrate Your love and truth in all our interactions, honoring You in thought, word, and deed. Amen.

Benediction:

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. As we conclude, let us remember to be thankful for His unchanging word, allowing the peace of Christ to rule in our hearts. May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.