

F. LaGard Smith answers the question: Is it a big deal to be a Christian who practices homosexuality?

Discussion and study guides / questions / topics for your consideration..

1. To begin, perhaps we should first ask, “is it a big deal to sin against God?”
 - a. Sin is characterized as rebellion against God. Do you think this is accurate?
 - b. Is rebellion against God a big deal? (Deut 21.18-21; Numbers 16; 1 Sam 15.22,23)
 - c. How does the Christian / Christianity think about sin?
 - d. How does the non-christian / non-christian world think about sin? (Prov 14.9?)
 - e. How do YOU think about sin?
 - f. Does ANYONE think about sin?
 - g. What does the bible say about sin?(Gen 4.7; Prov 14.9,34; Is 59.1,2; Ezek 18.19-23; Ro 3.9-18, 23; Ro 5.12,13; Ro 6.23; James 1.14-16).
2. Consider Romans 1. As suggested, is there an order or progression to Paul’s discussion regarding sin?
 - a. Verses 16,17 – the gospel and God’s righteousness (or yours?)
 - b. Verses 18-20 – suppression of truth
 - c. Verses 21-23 – idolatry (the creation worshipping itself)
 - d. Verses 24-27 – inversion of God’s natural order, or, homosexuality
 - e. Verses 28-31 – all other types of sins which begin with: unrighteousness
 - f. Verse 32 – there are parts to this single verse: knowing, participating; encouraging.
 - g. Now – really think about and consider verse 32 together with Romans 2.1-3.
3. Do you think that idolatry occurs when the creation worships itself?
 - a. Is this practice; this behavior occurring today?
 - b. Does it occur in the Lord’s church? (3 John 9-11)
 - c. What else occurs when idolatry? (Hab 2.18; Col 3.5)

4. All sin is an inversion of God's created order. What do you think?
 - a. Inversion synonyms: reversal; transposition; contrary; antithesis;
 - b. Reversal of position, order, form or relationship
 - c. IF we/you accept these definitions, does it follow that there a connection between sin and the reversal of relationship with the Creator God? (Is 59.2; Ro 1.21-23; Eph 2.1-3)
5. Homosexuality used to be the 'poster-child', or what is obvious, as a reference to something that is sinful.
 - a. Do you agree or disagree that it used to be an obvious form of sinfulness?
 - b. If it used to be...is it currently not?
 - c. Why? Has the Word of God changed? (Ps 119.89; Is 40.8; Matt 24.35; Heb 138; Jam 1.17; 1 Pet 1.24,25)
6. If there is a culture accepting of homosexuality as something as normal, then they (the culture) don't understand the most fundamental argument to be made about the most glaring inversion or distortion of natural order. What do you think?
 - a. What is culture?
 - b. What is the nature of culture – isn't it continually changing?
7. If we can't get it right about homosexuality, how can we hope to get it right about other sins?
8. So, what has changed; what is different about not just the creation's perception of homosexuality, but, about the Christian perception of homosexuality?
 - a. Discussion and example – what do you think?

A Christian is caught up in heterosexual fornication. The Christian, presumably, thinks and knows what I'm doing is wrong. I must stop. I must repent.

A homosexual (“Christian” or not) is caught up in homosexuality – with or without the fornicating act – that person believes what I’m doing is okay. Morally, this is not a sin.

The messaging from the world, which I accept, is that I was born or created this way. God has given this attraction, this instinct, so it is acceptable.

What do you think? Can this be a justifiable reasoning? Is this the “reasoning” that is occurring today?

9. What is attraction? What is lust? If attraction is not the problem, is lust? (Matt 5.27,28) (Romans 13.11-14)(1 John 2.15-17)

10. What is the sinful “thing” or action: “...is giving yourself over...”

- a. This is a phrase very rarely used in modern American speech, and yet, it is a very powerful action.
- b. Paul uses this phrase 3 times in Romans 1. Verses 24, 26, 28. “...God gave them over...”; what does this phrase mean? (compare with Acts 7.41-43).
- c. Now, contrast the giving of one’s self over in terms of Christ, giving himself up, of surrendering – see John 19.30; Gal 2.20; Eph 5.25.
- d. Whether giving one’s self over is in the heterosexual or homosexual, it is all sin, or, perhaps more specific, sexual immorality. No one has license or sanction to “behave” or conduct one’s self in ways that are opposed to God’s will and Word. What do you think?

11. Is there a conclusion to this matter? It’s always a big deal to violate God’s rules – as it is with every other sin. True or false? (1 Cor 6.9,10; Gal 5.19-21; Eph 5.3-7; Col 3.5-9; 2 Tim 3.1-5; Rev 21.8; Rev 22.15)

12. Are we living in an era in which we have stopped calling sin out as sin? (Is 5.20)

- a. Is this deception? Is this self-deception? (Mark 7.20-23; Gal 6.7,8)
- b. Who, then, is our father? (John 8)

13. Once we have arrived at the destination where sin is no longer sin; when we say that whatever I’m doing is OK, morally, is it a huge deal? Is it an eternal deal, with eternal implications? (Is 5.20,21; Ezek 13.3-16; 1 Tim 1.3-11; 2 Tim 4.1-4)