

## CHRISTIANITY AND HOMOSEXUALITY

In a predominantly Boarding school such as ours with as many as 725 boarders crowded together in dormitories furnished with bunk beds we have to take every possible precautions to prevent sexually deviant behaviour from manifesting itself. This type of behaviours is curiously identified as 'circumstantial homosexuality' such as are found in places of incarceration in which prisoners in goals, sailors in ships and soldiers in barracks choose homosexual behaviour because members of the opposite sex are not available.

In order to prevent such obnoxious relationships from developing in our school we strictly segregate sub junior boys from juniors, and juniors from seniors, by accommodating them in Junior, Intermediate and Senior Dormitories which are situated far apart, so that contact between members of these groups is minimized.

Although clandestine or closet relationships of this nature among consenting partners are bound to exist in the conditions that exist in our school, cases brought to light for inquiring in to and disciplining are never more than one or two each year but this may be only the tip of the iceberg.

There is probably no other work in the English language which rouses so much controversy and triggers off emotional reactions among people than the word homosexual. It used to be a dirty word, but today it is euphemistically referred to as 'gay behaviour'.

The word was scarcely mentioned in polite circles a decade ago and articles on the subject were considered strictly taboo in school magazines because homosexuals were considered mentally ill deviants and sick persons.

However, with the advent of the 'gay liberation' movement and the acceptance by 'straight' societies of a permissive nature in Western countries of the right of man to alternative life styles, the trend has unfortunately been to be more liberal in such matters and to end repressive penalties against homosexuals.

The result is that many who had been silent about their abnormalities have come out proudly and boldly in to the open to form 'gay organisations' and to demand a stop to persecution and social ostracizations, as well as legal punishment, which had been their lot in the past.

The strangest development is that even in Christian organisations in Western countries where homosexuals used to be outlawed earlier, they have even gone to the extent of forming

exclusive 'gay churches' through which they have been bold enough to declare the 'Christian homosexuality' as they prefer to term it, is a legitimate God-approved way of life. They interpret the Scriptures in a manner which will support their positions and to explain away the sinfulness of the habit and even argue that it is a 'gift from God'! and 'to be gay is to be superior to others'.

Let us see what the Bible has to say about it. There are as many as seven specific references to this sin of lustfulness in the Christian Bible. In the Old Testament we all have read of God's curse on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis Chapter 13 verse 13. "Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord".

Genesis Chapter 18, verse 20. "Then the Lord said, 'Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave I will go down to see....'

Genesis Ch 19, verse 24 to 25. "Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire out of heaven and he overthrew those cities, and all the valley and all the inhabitants of the cities."

We see that it is never approved, for it is classed with other sins that deserve the curse and the punishment of God. In the Old Testament sodomy and homosexuality is clearly condemned.

In the New Testament there are strangely enough only three specific references to homosexuality. The Greek word means specific references to homosexuality. The Greek word means 'coitus with other males or females'. And it is totally condemned as mortal sins, together with murder, manslaughter, thievery, idolatry adultery and other sins.

In Corinthians Chapter 6 verse 9 to 11 it says 'Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven'. Do not be deceived! Neither the immoral, nor the adulterer nor homosexuals nor thieves nor robbers will inherit the Kingdom of God."

This quotation from 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy verses 8 to 11 even condemns the ungodly sins of sodomy and homosexuality.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of Paul to Timothy, Paul says, The law is not laid down for the good, but for the lawless, for the ungodly and the sinners. For murderers of fathers, murderers of mothers, manslayers, for immoral persons, for homosexuals and sodomites in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted."

We can note that every time homosexuality is mentioned in the Bible it clearly is not approved for it is mentioned in a bad light, and condemned with other heinous acts of man.

In Romans Chapter I, verses 20 to 32 we have, 'They cannot know God because they did not honour Him as God but became sinful in their thinking and their minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools. They exchanged God for images of man. God therefore punished them with unnatural passions. Their men gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another. Men committed shameless acts

with other men and received a punishment for their sin. God gave them up to evil thoughts and improper conduct and they were filled with all manner of wickedness and evil. God decrees that those who do such things deserve to die.”

Paul points out that when people do not care about God’s teachings and God’s law they fall in to all kinds of sinful situations including idolatrous and over homosexuality. Homosexual thought become lustful and lust is clearly a sin. Former heterosexuals who have shifted to homosexuality are also condemned.

God punishes homosexuals even while they are in this world for those who have these tendencies are extremely ill-adjusted to any society and are unhappy because they suffer from guilt feeling. Their sense of self esteem is lowered in the eyes of others and they live in persistent fear of discovery and consequent shame and ostracisation. It stifles their spiritual and moral growth and destroys their relationship with God. It places a barrier between him and God. The most dreadful punishment is inflicted in the form of an incurable disease, AIDS, which destroys the immunity system of the human body and causes a slow and lingering death.

We see then that the wilful decision to engage in homosexual actions, to victimize and exploit boys and men for a lustful satisfaction is totally condemned by God.

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