

# The Bible Tells Me So

## SERMON NOTES

Week 4 January 30, 2022

“Bible and Sexuality”

Exodus 20:20-21; Genesis 1:27;

Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-27



### I. Past Misinterpretations of Scripture

- A. In the Bible, we find 326 references to \_\_\_\_\_. All but two of those references seem to be affirming slavery.
- B. In the law of Moses, \_\_\_\_\_ are considered the property of their husband or their father.
- C. The Bible seems to \_\_\_\_\_ the practice of polygamy and concubines.

### II. Homosexuality in the Bible

- A. The question about homosexuality is not about the authority of the Bible, the question is how we \_\_\_\_\_ scripture.
- B. There are generally eight Biblical passages specifically mentioning some form of \_\_\_\_\_ sex practice.
  - a. Genesis 19:1-29; Judges 19; Jude 1:7 (*Generally, these passages are not considered to be addressing homosexuality*)
  - b. Leviticus 18:22, 20:13 (*This is part of the holiness code*)
  - c. I Corinthians 6:9-10; I Timothy 1:10 (*some consider the Greek word used here to denote the sexual practice of adult men in relationship with boys*)
  - d. Romans 1:26-27 (*Paul is drawing on Leviticus and comparing things that are natural and unnatural*)

### III. Moving Forward

- A. Many Christians see the homosexuality debate as a civil right and \_\_\_\_\_ issue.
- B. Scripture tells us that Christians are to bear one another's burdens and \_\_\_\_\_ our neighbor as ourselves.
- C. Christians are to see other through the eyes of \_\_\_\_\_.

### ***Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message***

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *Jan. 31 – Feb. 5, 2022*

## INTRODUCTION

The issue of whether the United Methodist Church should marry and ordain Gay and Lesbian individuals has been extremely divisive for decades. Unfortunately, it looks like the church is headed for a split which will result in two separate denominations. Why is this happening? The issue is not one of scriptural authority as some would say, the issue is over scriptural interpretation.

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### Monday: Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-23, Leviticus 12:1-5

Ancient cultures valued men more than women. How did the creation stories seem to value women? What has shaped your views on your own gender and the other gender?

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### Tuesday: Genesis 2:24-25, Song of Solomon 1:15–2:4, 8:5-7, Genesis 29:31-30:24

Rachel had Jacob's love, but ached for children. Leah had children, but longed for Jacob's love. Both wives had Jacob sleep with their maidservants as pawns in their struggle for family status. We'd never do THAT—but in what ways does our culture separate sex from love and commitment? When have you seen that separation produce the same levels of pain and dysfunction that it did in Jacob's family?

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### Wednesday: Romans 1:26-27

Paul is drawing upon Leviticus here. He is saying there is normal and there is abnormal. He is illustrating what's natural and what's unnatural. Do you think Paul is talking about two people living as a family together for the rest of their lives and loving each other or was he referring to deplorable sex acts he saw in his culture?

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### Thursday: Matthew 9:9-13, James 2:8-13

How would you describe Jesus' intent when he said, "I desire mercy..."? Have Christian churches always been merciful in welcoming in those they judged as "sinners"? If we are perfectly honest, do you feel less in need of God's forgiveness and mercy than anyone else who's sins are different from your areas of struggle?

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### Friday: Luke 10:25-37

Regardless of where you come out on the debate about homosexual practice, among the questions we must answer is, "how do we, as Christians, respond to homosexuals?" One answer may be found in Luke 10:25-37. Reflect upon this passage and its meaning as it relates to our church's ministry with homosexuals, and your own personal response.

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## MOVING FORWARD

There are generally eight scripture passages that mention some sort of same sex relationship. Although three of those are generally not viewed as being about homosexuality. The question comes down to whether the other 5 passages reflect God's timeless and eternal will or do they reflect the culture in which the writer lived? Christians may not agree on how to interpret these passages, but when it comes to how we treat homosexual individuals, scripture is very clear - we are to love our neighbors as ourselves and we are to see others through the eyes of Jesus.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) slavery, B) women, C) affirm. IIA) interpret, B) same, IIIA) justice, B) love, C) Jesus*