



Can Gay Rights and Christianity Co-Exist?

1 Corinthians 10:23: (NASB) *All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.*



Some subjects stimulate the heart and not the mind and others stimulate the mind and not the heart. Then there are those that do both - to an extreme. Today we have such a subject: gay rights, gay marriage and Christianity. How should we, as Christians, view these things? Should we be redefining our vision of families? Should we be focusing on being compassionate and understanding? How much of the Bible is relevant to this issue here in the 21st century? Stay with us as we honestly and respectfully take this journey.

Is it right to judge others whose lives are simply different?

 **Being gay given by God, *Same Sex Marriage*, Dr. Phil**

- I never made a choice to be gay. I was born this way. Do you think we would have suffered discrimination, the hate, the murders and the beatings that we've had throughout our lives because this is a choice? Because this is what we want? This is a biological thing that has been given to us by God and we have embraced who we are and we love ourselves. And we just ask you, as we love you, we are all children of God and we ask that you love us!*

We will assume during this program that being gay is *not* a choice, and that people are born that way.

First point: (please do not take this out of context) God did not make anyone gay. Nor did he make anyone straight. He didn't make Rick short or give Jonathan a great melodious voice. These are products of birth and genetics. He allowed us to grow up in this world naturally through genetics.

Psalms 51:5: (NASB) *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.*

Romans 5:8: (NASB) *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

We are *all* products of a sinful and unfair world. God made Adam, Eve, and Jesus. What do they all have in common? They were made perfect.

In this sinful world there are (if you believe in the Bible) some basic and universal examples for how to live:

Genesis 2:20-24: (NRSV) ²⁰*The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.* ²¹*So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.* ²²*And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.* ²³*Then the man said, This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.* ²⁴*Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and **clings** to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

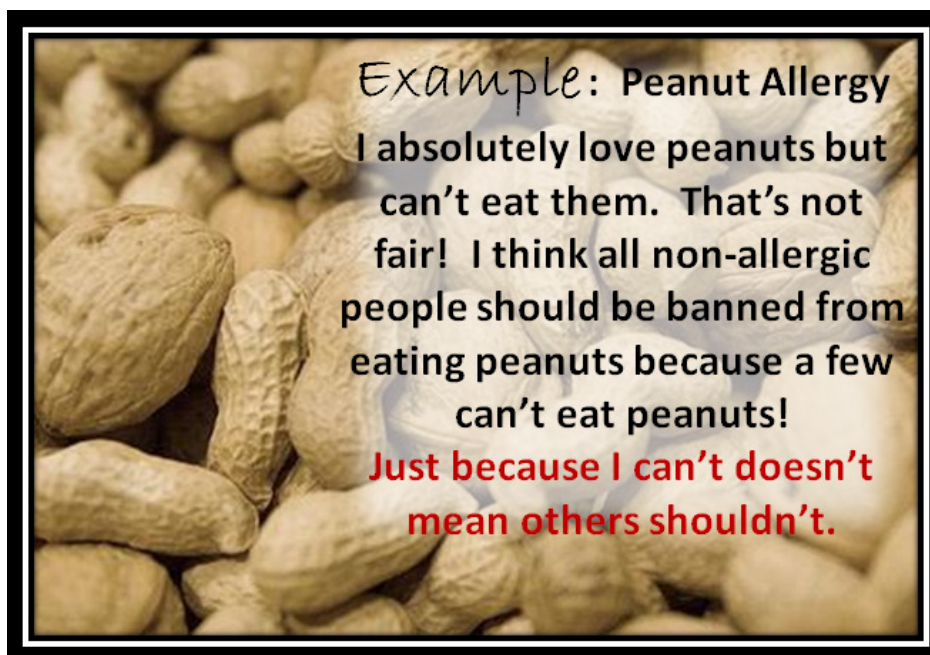
The only appropriate partner for the man was the woman. They were built differently to be complimentary to each other. This was the human model.



Father and uncle raised her, Same Sex Marriage, Dr. Phil

- ...I am the product of a gay "marriage." Well, actually unfortunately my "uncle" and father couldn't get married. I was raised by two men. And I want to say, I think they did an exceptional job. My home was nothing but wonderful. We had traditional family values. We had holidays. I saw nothing but love and healthy things were invited in my home. And those two men did a phenomenal job. When my uncle died in 2002, my father was not entitled to his social security rights; we had to get a directive to even go into the ICU because you are not considered immediate family. This man raised me for 27 years of my life, and I could barely hold his hand when he died. So it should be for everybody. So, please, change, open your heart a little bit - my family was good. My father and my uncle are amazing men.*

This is a very compelling argument. So, obviously some of us are wired differently - isn't that unfair? Do we have to change the rules to match everybody's wiring?



Does our Christian perspective treat everyone equally and fairly?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11: (NRSV) ⁹*Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, sodomites, ¹⁰thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, robbers—none of these will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And this is what some of you used to be. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

Gloria Allred on felons, Same Sex Marriage, Dr. Phil

- Scott Peterson, a convicted murderer, who murdered his wife and his unborn child, has the right to marry in California even though he's undeserving of that right and same gender couples who have been together for 50 years and who are deserving to have their love and commitment recognized under the law are denied that right. There's something wrong with that!*



Example:

Assume I love basketball and really want to be an NBA player. The problem is I am 5'4" tall and not physically gifted. It's not fair! Just because you are tall and gifted doesn't mean you should be able to get what you want, because I can't get what I want! I think that the NBA should mandate that there be at least 2 players on each team under 5'8" and that these players be required to have regular playing time and of course, equal contracts!



By the way, I have been told to be a jockey instead – great! The problem is I don't like horses. You can't divert my desire away from my dream and try to get me to be what I don't want to be!

Just because I am built differently doesn't mean others have to change or redefine what they do, and always have done well, to make room for me and my preferences.

We can never create a fair world in a world that is run by sin.

Why doesn't Jesus speak about gay relationships, pro or con? It sure would settle the issue for Christianity. The answer is simple - the Old Testament law did not allow for gay "relationships." It did not say that people wouldn't be born gay. Jesus *did* verify the sacredness of the relationships that were God-honored and God-sanctioned.

Yes, Jesus preached loving everybody. Yes, Jesus preached accepting people. But he always spoke in the context of drawing the people from where they were as sinners to a higher way of living.

Matthew 19:3-6: (NASB) ³Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing him and asking, Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all? ⁴And he answered and said, Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.

Jesus was specific in what God joined together. He gave no allowance for living outside of that relationship.



Mayor - let people live their lives, Same Sex Marriage, Dr. Phil

- *Let people live their lives with dignity, respect and honor, without feeling oppressed, without feeling that people of different points of view are oppressing their points of view on them. What I believe in is the capacity for people to live their dreams regardless of sexual orientation, regardless of their gender, regardless of their race. Equality - you cannot run the 90-yard dash and call an institution that is separate, equal. Equality is treating people*



equally and fairly regardless of their sexual orientation. We have got to stand on the principle of full equality for the gay and lesbian community.

Not only did Jesus sanction marriage, but he set the standard higher to get a divorce, underlining how important the one man/one woman concept was.

Does some stranger's gay marriage even have any effect on me?

Romans 1:18-23: (NASB) ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

Who are those spoken of in these verses? Verse 18 discussed *all* ungodly and unrighteous. What follows is a very sweeping indictment of all who are outside of God's favor. Paul is saying that whatever we do or think that is not ultimately in praise of God is idolatry. When we look at the way the Scriptures lay out the man/woman relationship, we believe that stepping outside of that is a form of idolatry, worshipping the created instead of the Creator.

Romans 1:24-25: (NASB) ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.



Does a gay marriage affect yours, Same Sex Marriage, Dr. Phil

- ...For all of us to open our hearts to what is going on here, what we ought to be talking about is the real disparities and the real inequities that they face in the loss of marriage equality. I don't think that good Christians want anyone to suffer, or want anyone's families to be harmed or treated inequitably in any...*

Example:

A 50-year old man is deeply in love with not one, but six 13-15 year old girls. They all want to marry and are all happy as multiple wives. Shouldn't we just let them live their lives? They truly love each other! After all, the girls are old enough to decide what to do with their bodies without parental interference (they can get abortions can't they?) and the thing about being 18 is really just an arbitrary number – besides, these girls are mature way beyond their years...

The bottom line question here is – where do YOU draw the line? Each of us has a point at which we say – no, it's just not right to go there.

Where is YOUR line and by the way, why do you even have your line?

What are the reasons YOU have that are so compelling?

What makes YOUR line so special?

Why should I have to abide by YOUR line?



The lines that we draw typically are what we feel is just and right vs. wrong. We are trying to draw the line where God has drawn it for us.

The line given to us by God is very clear, especially if one wants to be a follower of Christ.

THE BIG QUESTION: What about gay Christians? We believe they should not engage in a physical relationship with someone of the same sex. But that is the same for a straight Christian living with someone of the opposite sex. One is just as wrong as the other. Both are sins, so let's put it in perspective.



Christianity requires us to sacrifice things in our lives so we can step up higher to a God-acceptable way of living. We may not like it and it doesn't seem fair, but what do we do with a line God has drawn for us?

The marriage concept is not only religious, but it has been a secular institution among most cultures for the last 6,000 years. It established the most basic of all human units - the family unit. Marriage between a man and a woman was clearly recognized in a legal sense long before any government tried to define it.

We must apply the principle of loving God first, (as we discussed last week) especially with a topic like this.

We believe the *behavior* is wrong, not that a group of people are bad. Is the Bible old fashioned and no longer applicable?

Where does compassion fit into this whole dilemma?

 **Who did Jesus attract, *discussion on Christianity and homosexuality*, youtube.com**

- *When I got to Philadelphia, I met a kid in college who told me he was attracted to men and he felt like God made a mistake when He made him. That's what he felt from the church, that's what he felt from society, from hearing things like 'this is not natural.' So he felt that God made a mistake and he wanted to kill himself and that breaks my heart. I feel like if that kid can't find a home in the church, who have we become? We need to attract the people that Jesus attracted. Jesus attracted the hurting, the broken, the socially ostracized.*

That is a very compelling argument! Jesus *did* go to the broken and the ostracized.

...What did he say to them?

Matthew 11:28-30: (NASB) ²⁸Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Important truth: Jesus does call us to him to ease our burdens.

God did not "make" anybody gay. God did not "make" anybody straight. God did not make anybody tall or short. We are products of our gene pool, which is in the context of a sinful world. God created Adam and Eve. God made Jesus



flesh. What do the three have in common? They were created perfect. God allowed these things and so much since then has been unfair because of sin.

We agree that the young man in the last sound bite should be able to find compassion and understanding from his church. How do we do that?

Jesus calls us to him as we are, not so we stay that way, but so we can become what we can be by following him. He calls us to transformation. If we are not focused on transformation, then we are missing the main point of what Christianity is about. We are to come to Christ and put away the sin of the past.

We have to step out of our previous affiliation and into the school of Christ:

Romans 6:17-19: (NRSV) ¹⁷*But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted,* ¹⁸*and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.* ¹⁹*I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.*

This is how we apply compassion to the issue. As Christians, we are supposed to *leave behind* whatever is not Christ-like! That is the point of the Christian church. It is to transform us from sin to righteousness; from earthliness to spirituality. There is no better way to compassionately deal with someone having an issue than to love them for who they are and show them the way Christ laid out for us, so they can step up.

One can be gay but put aside a gay lifestyle and be acceptable to God.

The Bible does not deal with sexual orientation; rather, it deals with acceptable and unacceptable behaviors. We need to focus on what is acceptable to God.

Mortify deeds of the flesh:

Romans 8:11-13: (NRSV) ¹¹*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.* ¹²*So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh* ¹³*for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

Choose your master:

Colossians 3:2-5: (NRSV) ²*Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth,* ³*for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.* ⁴*When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.* ⁵*Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry).*

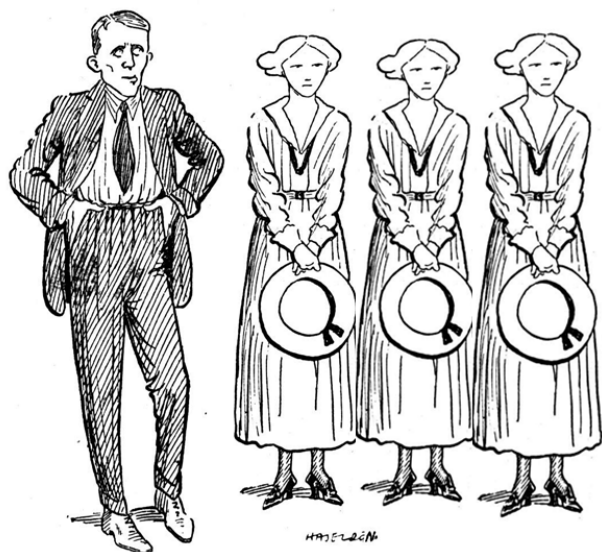
Remember, even the greedy will not inherit the kingdom! We should put greed away from us with the same zeal. We cannot be a follower of sin and a follower of Christ at the same time. We want to make the choice to work towards spirituality.

Are we as Christians bound by the Old Testament Law?

Interracial marriage precedent, *Same Sex Marriage*, Dr. Phil

- *The California Supreme Court decided 60 years ago to strike down the ban on interracial marriage in California. Why? Because at that time they found that marriage is a fundamental constitutional right, and that it must be enjoyed also by couples of different races. They used that case as precedent for these (gay) marriage cases. It's a fundamental right and you can't deny same gender couples that constitutional right.*

Let's look at something that many say destroys the Bible's credibility - polygamy. Many say that the Bible is "full" of this practice and it goes against the one man/one woman marriage concept, therefore exceptions to that concept are acceptable. But consider this:



- There are only a few examples of polygamy in the scriptures;
- Most notable are kings of the Old Testament;
- There are NO Christian examples of polygamy - they are only one man/one woman

Did God endorse or tolerate polygamy?

Deuteronomy 17:14-20: (NASB) ¹⁴When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me, ¹⁵you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.

¹⁶Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the LORD has said to you, You shall never again return that way. ¹⁷He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself. ¹⁸Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, ²⁰that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.

Read these verses carefully! God did not want Israel to have kings, but they demanded it anyway. God said that these kings should not have multiple wives, but they did not listen. God, therefore, was not in favor of polygamy in the Old Testament, but He allowed it, along with the other sinful things done. God warns about wrong courses but shows His willingness to let the consequences of our actions have their effect.

Interracial marriage legal result, *Same Sex Marriage*, Dr. Phil

- *(This is the response to the speaker in the previous sound bite saying that since we allow interracial marriage, we must allow same-sex marriage.) It's a question of how the government is going to treat religious organizations that*

don't see a union of two men just like a husband and wife. The interracial marriage analogy is very clear - it's a threat to the licenses of professionals - this is what we don't let bigots who oppose racial marriage do - those who have professional licenses, you can't be a psychiatrist, a lawyer, a social worker, a teacher, if you don't view interracial marriage as just marriage. You can't have an accredited school system if you don't believe in interracial marriage. Your tax exempt status in both state and federal is affected. There are large legal consequences.

If we do not take the moral guidelines of the Scriptures and hold them up as a standard, then where does our standard come from? The answer to this is, inevitably, that it would come from what we believe to be right within ourselves. For Christians as we follow after Christ, there are unacceptable behaviors. We can start there but he doesn't want us to finish there. If we are coming to Christ and we are gay, we must decide to follow Christ and not our desires.

What happens when we "self-rule?" Idolatry takes root because we are following the creature rather than the Creator. This is really falling under the rule of Satan.

Our Emotions hide our Ethics:

Our emotions drive us rather than a standard.

Our seeking of Pleasures overpowers our following of

Principles: When we get involved in such things, it is only a downward course. King David is a good example of this, relying on his own thinking.

The fulfilling of our Desires buries our focus on our

Discipline: Our personal desires take over the discipline of keeping things in check in following after Jesus.

Our Feelings about things override our Faith:

Sometimes we feel like things are right but it contradicts when faith says it is right. So there is a decision to be made.

Our Circumstances cause us to question our Conviction:

Because circumstances change doesn't mean our conviction ought to change.



Remember that Jesus made even the thoughts of certain activities sinful. What do we do with that? It has been said, "You can't prevent birds from flying overhead, but you can prevent them from nesting in your hair." Thoughts will come into our heads, but it is up to us to refocus, pray for strength, and not entertain those thoughts. Others will help us so we can live up to a higher standard.

Should we become Christian activists?

2 Corinthians 5:20: (NASB) *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

Does being an ambassador mean to become politically involved in the fight?

 **Never met an ex-black person, Same Sex Marriage, Dr. Phil**

- *(An African-American woman speaking regarding equating the gay rights struggle to the civil rights of the black community. It is a different kind of struggle and she found the comparison insulting.) It's a struggle to have basic rights - I don't care what you do - you have never met an ex-black person!!*


For Christians, it is a scriptural imperative that we remain separate from the world:

1 Corinthians 10:14-24: (NASB) ¹⁴Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say. ¹⁶Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar? ¹⁹What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.

Don't make sacrifices of goodness to something not godly.

Like it or not, as a Christian we cannot live a life divided:

²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²²Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we? ²³All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. ²⁴Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.

 **Pro-traditional marriage statement, Same Sex Marriage, Dr. Phil**

- *I want respect for the reality that there is something special about unions of husbands and wives. Marriage has a dignity and a purpose. It's not rooted in hatred or animus towards anyone. If we can come together about practical things that help each other live our lives, I think Americans would feel very differently. But right now the proposition on the table is that the ancient and honorable idea of marriage is the moral and should be the legal equivalent of racism, and I think that's really wrong.*

Why do we, at Christian Questions, firmly hold to the line that marriage is between a man and a woman?

- It is a 6,000 year old line - established right from the beginning of mankind;
- It established the most basic of all human units - the family unit;



- It was clearly recognized in a legal sense long before any government tried defining it;
- It has been considered sacred and honored throughout all of history;
- It works and has worked in myriads of cultures for 6,000 years;
- It has been viewed as a model according to which we can build a happy, fulfilled life;
- It is, literally, the natural way to conceive children;
- It is the natural way to raise children, as a child is literally the product of a man and a woman;
- It, by virtue of the physical makeup of men and women, defined provider and nurturer; and
- It is the standard by which, even in this morally decrepit society, child rearing is measured.

And now the religious reasons:

- We believe this line to have been drawn by God;
- It was confirmed by Jesus; and
- It was confirmed by the apostles.

Do we believe in gay marriage? No. Are we going to tell somebody because they are gay they are not acceptable to Christ? No. What we are going to say is that according to Scripture, we need to behave in a way that would be acceptable to God through Jesus. All of us have to leave sinful things behind and strive towards what is spiritual. In relation to people who are not Christians who are gay, we must love them and respect them, even if they position themselves as our enemy.

*So should we support gay marriage...?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



First, just a few comments on those who say the Bible does not really condemn homosexual practices.

(Source: Newsweek, December 15, 2008, The Religious Case for Gay Marriage by Lisa Miller.) This article argues that the Bible is not at all against gay marriage; rather it is in favor of it.

"The Bible does condemn gay male sex in a handful of passages. Twice Leviticus refers to sex between men as "an abomination" (King James version), but these are throwaway lines in a peculiar text given over to codes for living in the ancient Jewish world, a text that devotes verse after verse to treatments for leprosy, cleanliness rituals for menstruating women and the correct way to sacrifice a goat—or a lamb or a turtle dove. Most of us no longer heed Leviticus on haircuts or blood sacrifices; our modern understanding of the world has surpassed its prescriptions. Why would we regard its condemnation of homosexuality with more seriousness than we regard its advice, which is far lengthier, on the best price to pay for a slave?"

Wow! "Throwaway" verses?

- Fact: Leviticus IS about many regulations that God was implementing for his people. Some of the regulations were VERY ceremonial and VERY ritualistic.
- Fact: Leviticus 18 is the ONLY chapter in the entire book that begins with a comparison back to Egypt and forward to Canaan and the command to not do those things that they may have seen or will see in those places.

Leviticus 18:1-5: (NKJV) ¹Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: I am the Lord your God. ³According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. ⁴You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the LORD your God. ⁵You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord.

These things in this chapter are not religious, they are behavioral. If we want to "throw away" the verses about homosexual behavior, are we willing to "throw away" the following? Read these carefully and see if you think they are just a bunch of nonsense:

Leviticus 18:6-23: (NKJV) ⁶None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the LORD.

⁷The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover.

⁸The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness.

⁹The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover.

¹⁰The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter,

¹¹The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father—she is your sister

- ¹²You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is near of kin to your father.
- ¹³You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is near of kin to your mother. ¹⁴You shall not approach (your father's brother's) wife; she is your aunt.
- ¹⁵You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law—she is your son's wife—
- ¹⁶You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.
- ¹⁷You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness. They are near of kin to her.
- ¹⁸Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive.
- ¹⁹Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity.
- ²⁰Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her.
- ²¹And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.
- ²²You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

Abomination: Strong's #8441 tow`ebah (to-ay-baw'); properly, something disgusting (morally), i.e. (as noun) an abhorrence; especially idolatry or (concretely) an idol:
KJV-- abominable (custom, thing), abomination.

²³Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.

(Source: Biblical commentary from Jamieson, Fausset & Brown) Leviticus 18:6: None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him—Very great laxity prevailed amongst the Egyptians in their sentiments and practice about the conjugal relation, as they not only openly sanctioned marriages between brothers and sisters, but even between parents and children. Such incestuous alliances Moses wisely prohibited, and his laws form the basis upon which the marriage regulations of this and other Christian nations are chiefly founded.

Are we willing to throw away all of these verses, now that we have seen the context?

One more thing - the relationship between David and Jonathan - again the Newsweek article:

"Gay men like to point to the story of passionate King David and his friend Jonathan, with whom he was "one spirit" and whom he "loved as he loved himself." Conservatives say this is a story about a platonic friendship, but it is also a story about two men who stand up for each other in turbulent times, through violent war and the disapproval of a powerful parent. David rends his clothes at Jonathan's death and, in grieving, writes a song:

I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother;
You were very dear to me.
Your love for me was wonderful,
More wonderful than that of women.



Here, the Bible praises enduring love between men. What Jonathan and David did or did not do in private is perhaps best left to history and our own imaginations."

Let's take a closer look at the word "love" in this verse:

Love: Strong's #0160 hbha 'ahabah *a-hab-aw affection*

AV - 1) love, 1a) human love for human object, 1a1) of man toward man, 1a2) of man toward himself, 1a3) between man and woman, 1a4) sexual desire, 2) God's love to His people

Was the "love" between David and Jonathan sexual?

Other uses of the same word:

2 Chronicles 2:11: *Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, Because the LORD hath **loved** <0160> his people, he hath made thee king over them.*

2 Chronicles 9:8: *Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee to set thee on his throne, to be king for the LORD thy God: because thy God **loved** <0160> Israel, to establish them for ever, therefore made he thee king over them, to do judgment and justice.*

Psalms 109:4: *For my **love** <0160> they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer.*

David and Jonathan had a relationship that expressed total dedication to one another - kind of like Jesus here describes:

John 15:13: (NKJV) *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*