

# **SAME-SEX LOVE SAME-SEX SEX: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?**

(Text of leaflet given out on 1st September 2007 at the Cardiff homosexual 'Mardi Gras')

## **Reverse:**

This is a leaflet for intelligent, open-minded people, discussing what the Bible says about same-sex love and same-sex sex. Most of us want to be right with God and although salvation is His free gift, the wages of sin is still death. So does getting right with God mean changing our views or even our lifestyle?

There can be no doubt about it, spirituality and religious faith are vitally important, so what do Christians believe, and how does Jesus Christ become more than a swear-word in someone's life? We try to explain how Jesus Christ can forgive and release you from all that separates you from God. Men and women have walked away from all kinds of sinful lifestyles and become free from destructive desires. You can't do it on your own, but Christ in you can. May God bless you as you call out to Him to put yourself right through Jesus and find His purpose for your life.

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## **Main text:**

### **SAME-SEX LOVE - SAME-SEX SEX: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?**

Does the Bible condemn same-sex love? Let's see: 'And Esau ran to meet (Jacob) and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him; and they wept.' (Genesis 33:4) That's love between two people of the same sex, two brothers, in fact. 'And Jonathan loved (David) as his own soul.' (1 Sam 18:1-4) That's love between men, two warriors. 'And Ruth said (to Naomi) "Whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, there I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God".' (Ruth 1:16) That's love between two women, Ruth and her mother-in-law.

#### **More same-sex love**

Remember the parable of the prodigal son? He left home and wasted everything. Finally, he came to his senses, and went home expecting to be treated as a servant: 'And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' (Luke 15:20-24) So there's love in the Bible between a father and his son, who obviously are of the same sex.

#### **What about same-sex sex?**

So if same-sex love is OK, same-sex sex is OK as an expression of that, is it? Well, no, actually. In a chapter

forbidding sexual sin such as adultery, incest, bestiality and child sacrifice, the Bible also says this: 'Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind: it is abomination.' (Lev 18:22) That's the passage Sir Ian McKellen tore out of the Bible on stage. He couldn't stand it being there. But it's the same all the way through. The Apostle Paul writes about people who started to worship themselves rather than the God who made them. 'For this cause', he says, 'God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.' (Romans 1:25-27) So same-sex sex is sin. There can be no argument.

### **So why is same-sex sex wrong?**

But why is same-sex love OK, but same-sex sex isn't? It's because God intended love to be bigger than sex. A sexual expression of love between brothers or sisters or those of the same sex is totally against His purpose for mankind. Sex in the Bible as God ordained it is always between man and wife in chaste and faithful marriage: 'Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they shall be one flesh.' (Gen 2:24) The parts of the body involved are designed to fit perfectly. Men and women are complementary - made for each other and in particular, made to have sexual intercourse with each other. A man can never be 'one flesh' with another man, any more than a woman can be 'one flesh' with another woman.

### **What did Jesus say?**

In His time on earth, Jesus said nothing about same-sex sex, nothing about incest, nothing about child sacrifice and nothing about bestiality. He didn't need to. As He is 'God-the-Son', He had already written the Law. But when Christ spoke about sex, it was to quote that word from Genesis about heterosexual 'one flesh' marriage and then to rule against no-fault divorce. So Jesus taught heterosexuality. He told people to keep God's commandments. He also claimed to be God and to be able to forgive sin. He said there is no sin so big He cannot forgive it once you confess it, and no life that cannot be redeemed. In fact, by faith in Jesus men and women have actually been healed of homosexual desires. No-one has to stay gay. If you are gay or lesbian it may or may not have been a matter of choice - but you do have a choice whether to stay in a lifestyle which ends in hell, or whether to put yourself right with God through belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **What do Christians believe?**

Christians believe God is the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth. He is entirely self-existent and the divine intelligence behind all creation, including us. Since God created us, He needed to lay down the laws by which we should live. Jesus Christ upheld those laws. When He said 'Keep the Commandments', He spoke against worshipping anything other than God, against blasphemy, disrespect to parents and those in authority, against murder, adultery, stealing, lying, envy, and, yes, same-sex sex.

### **We can't keep Commandments!**

The trouble is, we can't live up to Jesus's example, because we are born with a nature prone to sin. We have all done wrong by His standards, so we are all out of fellowship with God. God is loving and merciful. He wants fellowship with mankind. But as He is righteous and holy, our sin prevents it. So here is the dilemma: How can a holy God forgive the sin which separates us and bring us back to the right relationship with Him which He so wants us to have?

### **A bit of good news for a change**

By being born in a stable to become the ultimate once-for-all sacrifice, that's how. In Jesus God became man, and died on the Cross to reconcile to God all who would believe in Him. When He was crucified, Jesus took our sins upon Him, so those who trust in Him are totally forgiven. But it did not end there. Jesus Christ ('Christ' means 'anointed' or 'Messiah') rose from the dead by His own power and Christians live in His risen life, through the power of the Holy Spirit. After His resurrection, Jesus ascended back to heaven, and was given the right to rule over all the kingdoms of the world. One day Jesus Christ, Messiah, King of kings, will return in judgment, to condemn the wicked and justify the righteous. The books will be opened. Justice will finally and truly be done. But what about you, when your name is called? How will you stand in His sight, in that day?

## **'I am the way' says Jesus**

Jesus told the parable of the Prodigal Son to show that however far we go away from God, He will welcome us with open arms if we recognise that we have done wrong and are ready to put things right. Homosexuality is not the unforgivable sin, but surely 'all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.' 'All' means you too, but Jesus has the power to forgive you and give you a new life. Turn from your sins, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Do that today, because you could die tomorrow. You can't cover your own sin, only Jesus Christ is the way to heaven. He said: 'I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.' He also said: 'For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' That's still His promise, and 'whosoever' includes you.