

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

June 2

2024

## God Condemns Homosexuality

Sadly, homosexuality has become so common and accepted in our society today that even the whole month of June has now been dedicated as a time of celebration, commemoration, and activism for those who identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer, and this disgraceful celebration has been named “Pride Month.”

However, no matter how popular homosexuality seems to be today, someone once said, “homosexuality is as modern as today’s newspaper and as old as ancient history.” You see, the point is, although homosexuality is getting a lot of attention today it is nothing new, but rather it is an immoral act that has been practiced for centuries. But, the fact of the matter is, God did not approve of homosexuality then, and He certainly does not approve of it now.

In Leviticus 18:22, Moses spoke these words of the Lord to the children of Israel, “*You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.*” Moses went on to say, “*If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them*” (Leviticus 20:13). My friend, an abomination is something that causes disgust or hatred.

So, to be simply put, from these passages we learn that God hates homosexuality, it simply disgusts Him.

Now, although God hates, and does not condone homosexuality, there are sadly many today who try to justify the sin of homosexuality by saying that anything which consenting adults care to do is morally acceptable. You see, although God has given us the free will to choose to do what we want to do, whether it is fitting to Him or not (Romans 1:24-28), the fact of the matter is, God says what He means, and means what He says. Therefore, no matter how hard one may try to justify homosexuality, there is nothing which one may say or do which will ever make it acceptable in the sight of God’s righteous judgment (Romans 1:32).

My friends, the truth is, God condemns homosexuality whether one chooses to accept it or not. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, the inspired apostle Paul gave a warning when he wrote, “*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.*” My friend, the all inspired word of God (2 Timothy 3:16) does not get any more clearer than that when it comes to understanding the fact that God condemns homosexuality.

Once more, it is important that we all understand that God has never put His stamp of approval on homosexuality, and He never will! So, remember that, my friend, as you see advertisements, TV commercials, and various events going on this month in recognition of the so-called “Pride Month.”

✍️ Brad Phillips

## A Simple Verse About Right and Wrong

“ . . . abhor what is evil; cling to what is good” (Romans 12:9). This short verse (actually it is just the second part of the verse) would be a fine one to commit to memory. It states or implies at least three vital points.

First, there is such a thing as good and evil. People used to understand that. We used to know that one is supposed to keep his word, that greed is a bad thing, that marriage is for life, that homosexuality is a perversion, etc. Now, several generations have grown up listening to denominational preachers say that it does not matter what you believe, thereby undermining Bible authority.

We have heard libertarians rationalize any and every kind of conduct. We have grown accustomed to comedians making daily fodder of sin of every kind. Is it any wonder people are confused? Come to think of it, this is nothing new. Long ago Isaiah wrote, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; . . . who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight” (Isaiah 5:20-21).

Second, it is both possible and necessary to discern good and evil. Personal preferences and moral relativism leave us adrift. There is a fixed standard. It is God. He is right or righteous. “A God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4). His word, His self-revelation, is the yardstick by which all conduct is measured. It is the standard by which we shall be judged (John 12:48).

Discerning right and wrong begins with the “thou shalt/thou shalt not” passages. We must also take into account principles of conduct, such as maintaining a clear conscience

(Romans 14:22-23), not putting other things before God (Matthew 6:33), leaving off questionable things that would lessen our influence for good (Matthew 5:16), etc. Paul often prayed that Christians would grow in this area of distinguishing conduct (Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-12).

Third, we must act in keeping with the quality of any given behavior. If a thing is good we are to cling to it. The original verb in our text is from the Greek noun for glue; be glued to it. On the other hand, if conduct is bad, we are to abhor it. Abhor is from the Latin word for horror, which literally means to shudder. We should shudder at the very idea of some kinds of behavior [misbehavior].

Simply put, Romans 12:9 tells us to use God’s word and draw the line between good and evil. Once that line is drawn, do not see how close to it you can get without stepping over; stay as far away from evil and as close to God as you can.

✍️ *Frank Himmel*

### Belleville church of Christ

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[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study .....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship .....	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study .....	7:00 p.m.

#### Evangelist

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