

What is the balance to being gay and Christian?

- 1. Do you believe that God has provided reconciliation for you, as you are, no holds barred?
- 2. Do your ideas limit God's ability to provide reconciliation for you or others for any reason?
- 3. Are you willing to see and accept others as God sees and accepts them?
- 4. Do you realize that being gay and Christian is no different than any other personal issues and preferences in a believer's life?

To balance being gay, or any other interests in life, with being a Christian means that nothing comes before God, and our life and interests can and should glorify God. Every believer is commanded to be a witness; representing Jesus Christ, without judgment, condemnation, or stumbling blocks, to others. It is the stumbling blocks placed in front of individual believers, for all sorts of reason, that has: discouraged sharing of the Christian witness; stopped millions of possibilities to open doors of salvation to new believers, and; lost the God-given enthusiasm to stay the course of faith.

“Gay”:

The word “gay” was integrated into homosexual cultures decades ago because homosexual people began experiencing the emotional release that came from “coming out of the closet” and stop hiding from social judgment. The word “gay” in the Bible comes from the Greek and means: shining, brilliant, clear, transparent, splendid, magnificent (splendid things such as luxuries or elegancies in dress or style).

So, today “Gay” means liberation of expression and it's time for “gay” to return to include the original and true meaning of “liberation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ for all”.

Liberty in Christ –

Galatians 5:1 Stand strong therefore in the liberty with which Christ has made us free, and don't be entangled again with the yoke of bondage. 2 Look, I Paul say to you, that if you are circumcised (for religious purposes), Christ will profit you nothing. 3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4 Christ has become of no effect to you, whoever of you are justified by the law; you are fallen from grace. 5 For we, through the Spirit, wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision avails anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which works by love.

This scripture clearly states that if anyone is trying to follow, or hold anyone else to the law then they are required to accomplish all of the law themselves; which the Bible deems impossible. It goes on to proclaim unquestionably that Jesus Christ means nothing to anyone who tries to force any of the old law on themselves or anyone else.

Respecter of persons

James 2

1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. 2 For if there comes to your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in worn raiment; 3 And you have respect to him that wears the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit you here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand you there, or sit here under my footstool: 4 Are you not then partial in yourselves, and have become judges of un-Godly thoughts? 5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? ... 9 But if you have respect to persons, you commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. 10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. ...12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment. ...17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Scripture severely warns against respecting one person above another and verifies that it is

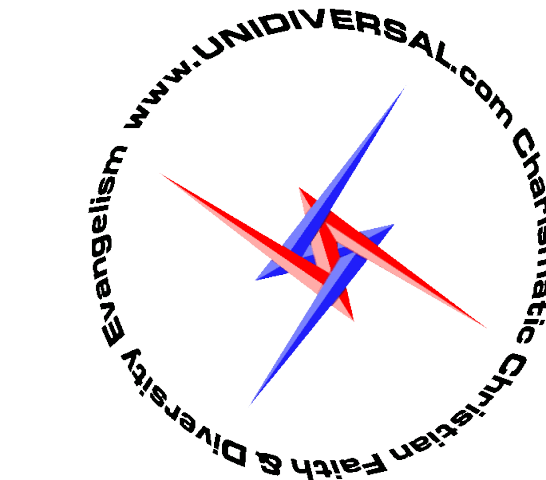
an effort to follow the law. It goes on to describe how putting anyone down will be judged by God without mercy. Instead, we are to ‘speak and do as they that will be judged by Jesus Christ's law of liberty’.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the “gift” of God: 9 Not of works, unless anyone should brag.

Those who want to condemn find ways to exclude whoever disagrees with them. It is inclusiveness that Jesus exemplified in the face of religious exclusionists. We do not condemn the condemners, we welcome them ALL and magnify God for His undeserved mercy and grace for all above and beyond any of our lacking abilities to be worthy of reconciliation to Himself.

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*The Central Source,
Creator, and Focus of Existence,
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HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE SERIES

Errors of Condemnation

*by grace
through faith
it is the gift
of God*
Ephesians 2:8

“Homosexuality is not about sex it is about building a healthy life of peace, faith, and compassion not unlike heterosexuality is suppose to be.”

The #1 main error of people who condemn homosexuality is generalization. References to homosexual condemnation include references to violence and weakness that do not directly address homosexuality. To generalize all homosexuals with these things is to not deal sincerely with homosexuals as respectable human beings equally created and provided salvation for by God.

I Corinthians 6:9 Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Don't be deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortionists, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Effeminate (weak, indecisive, and manipulative). This is no more like most homosexuals than like people of all sexualities.

Examples of scriptures used to “Bible-beat” homosexuals that pertain to things that are not definitively homosexual:

John 13:2 And after supper, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's [son], to betray him;

This text has been stretched beyond its context against homosexuals and has nothing to do with homosexuality

II Peter 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

This text has been generalized and is not concerning homosexuality in or of itself. To use this text is to put critics own interests before interest in God.

I Timothy 1:8 But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; 9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy

and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers (kidnappers for slavery), for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

Generalizing this text to support definitive homosexual condemnation is stretching the context that is not defining homosexuality in or of itself.

Scriptures used to “Bible-beat” homosexuals concerning things that ‘may’ pertain to homosexuality but more appropriately and definitively condemn violence. Condemnation of violence applies to all people of all ways of life and non-believers sexual perversion with violence is being used as an example:

II Peter 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample to those that after should live ungodly; 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

This scripture refers to sexual activity that is abominable, or hateful, and does not describe homosexuals who believe by faith through grace.

Jude v7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Refers to *strange flesh*, not like themselves, different kinds of living being(s), most likely animals or anything they could use or abuse. This is not definitive homosexuality.

Genesis 19:1-29

1 And there came two angels to Sodom at evening...3 ...and they... entered into his house 4 ...the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: 5 they

called...and said...Where are the men which came in to you this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them (sexually)...6 And Lot...7 said, I pray you...do not so wickedly...9 And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to stay over...now we will deal worse with you, than with them. And they pressed heavily against...Lot, and came close to breaking the door. 10 But the men...pulled Lot into the house...and shut the door. 11 And they struck the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wore themselves out trying to find the door...29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the way of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot lived.

The story of the destruction of Sodom refers to violence and rape; non-consensual treatment is being spoken of here. Actual sodomy is not homosexuality in or of itself but any type of sex in violent, forced, and/or non-consensual situations. Check out the following scripture paraphrase reference to Sodom's demise. **Ezekiel 16:48–49** “This is the sin of Sodom; she and her suburbs had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not help or encourage the poor and needy. They were arrogant and this was abominable/hateful in God's eyes.”

Leviticus 18:22 You Shall not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

& Leviticus 20:13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood [shall be] upon them.

Abomination means hateful disgrace, which committed couples are not. Since these verses are not referring to honorable GLBT relationships, neither does anybody have to be concerned with all of the other laws discussed in the same chapter and the Old Testament books of laws that are broken by condemners and affirming people alike. Not the least of which are eating and touching pork, wearing more than one kind of material together (i.e. cotton and wool), and being in the presence of a dead body.



The #2 main error of people who condemn homosexuality: Missing or omitting the points being made in context and focusing on judgment and condemnation of textual examples given.

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. 26 For this cause God gave them up to vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 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.

The focus here is to point out anyone's error who worships and serves the creature rather than the creator which causes people to misconstrue the truth of God's Word, lies, prioritize themselves, their ideas and imaginations above God in their life; use their own bodies and each other's as idols in place of God; both women and men rejected ideas of anyone having male-female sex and chose to do destructive and unappealing things to try to increase lust for worship of their bodies instead. (also see brochure: “Romans 1”)

This is not only a lesson for homosexuals who believe God for reconciliation, but for ‘anyone’ who worships or serves the creation in place of the creator, prioritizes themselves above God, idolizes the body in place of God, condemns male-female sex, or does destructive things to their body to invite others to worship their body sexually or otherwise.