

Interpretation: Homosexuality in the Bible Revisited

Contemplating literal and metaphoric views regarding homosexuality
and the Bible

A Workbook

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*"Behold, what manner of love the Abba God has bestowed upon us,
that we should be called the children of God."*

I John 3:1

"...much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble (weakest and least important), are (absolutely*) necessary (indispensable*): And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable (or rather odd*), upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely (unfit, untamed, unworthy, and unpresentable*) parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ." (*words from other translations added)*

I Corinthians 12:22-27

*"That you may be blameless and harmless, the children of God,
without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation,
among whom you shine as lights in the world."*

Philippians 2:15

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Beloved, you are:
Blessed Matthew 5:3-8
Called Romans 1:6
Chosen Ephesians 1:4
Faithful Matthew 25:21
Invited Revelation 19:9
Loved I John 3:1

Introduction

During my early years, what I was taught to believe about God and the Bible was filtered through a literal lens. I memorized the Romans Road plan of Salvation (Romans 3:10 and 3:23, Romans 5:8; Romans 6:23; and Romans 10:9-11 and 13). I gave out the "Four Spiritual Laws" tracts that demonstrated how one could come to know God. God loves humanity and has a plan for each person's life. Humanity is born in sin, separated from God, and each person must believe on the provision of Jesus, and receive Jesus as one's personal Savior. I also believed that due to the devastating annihilation of Sodom and Gomorrah, God demonstrated His hatred of homosexuality by punishing the guilty. According to I Corinthians 6:9 & 10, the Apostle Paul warned that homosexuals do not enter into the kingdom of heaven. I internalized the literal understanding of Scripture because I trusted my parents and adult leaders.

After I graduated from a Christian liberal arts college, the new awareness of my same sex (lesbian) attractions haunted me. I prayed fervently for God to take my shameful "thorn in my flesh" attractions as they were contrary to God and His Word. *Am I going to hell now?* After struggling in silence for over a year, I found I wasn't alone, and with the help of counseling, prayer and journaling, I believed I could change my orientation. This was the message I heard as I attended Cornerstone Music Festival "Understanding Homosexuality" workshops, and Exodus International conferences and group meetings.

After many years of participating in the "pray away the gay" mindset, I began my own research with my Bible and a *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. I began to see that Jesus (Yeshua) and most of the disciples, apostles, and writers of the Old Testament books were Hebrew. The majority of people during Biblical times were not able to read or write, thus storytelling was the main mode of communication. The Hebrew language is bursting with idioms and metaphoric phrases to paint pictures for understanding. One example of this is Ezekiel chapter thirty four, which contains multiple colorful metaphoric concepts and describes, throughout history, reoccurring political, societal, familial and religious patterns.

Yeshua and many of His followers were outcasts from their society, families and their religion. He broke many of the traditions and laws (touching a leper and menstruating woman, and healing on the Sabbath) as he fed the masses and compassionately healed the sick (Luke 4:18).

My internalized literal belief system collided with my maturing internal guidance system. This caused me to question everything I had been taught. What does the Bible really say regarding homosexual attractions and behaviors? Does God really hate homosexuality? What if my sexual orientation has been a gift; the catalyst causing me to seek God with all my heart? *"And you shall seek Me, and find Me, when you shall search for Me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, says the Lord..."* Jeremiah

29:13 & 14. My eyes began to recognize the deep metaphoric richness of God's ways, thoughts, plan and purpose. Contrary to the world's estimation, God considers the weak, unpresentable, different, or seemingly least important as the most necessary or indispensable to the overall function of the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:22-26).

For many years, I wanted answers; this workbook was birthed out of many years of study. This tool provides an opportunity for each person to seek for themselves regarding what God expresses metaphorically to those who have ears to hear. Investigate for yourself. Question. Seek. "...*Mysteries are revealed unto the meek,*" Ecclesiasticus 3:19 (Apocrypha). Contemplate the verses and record what speaks to you. As you dig and sift for hidden treasures, may the nuggets of truth appear.

There is much debate about what Bible translation a seeker should use. At first, I used the *1611 King James Bible (KJV)* with the *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, and the online *Biblehub* website as the tools for this study because the spiritual metaphoric connections came alive. As I have matured, I've consulted several other Bibles, and my view of Scripture evolved as I utilized the *Ancient Hebrew Dictionary*, and the *Ancient Hebrew Lexicon*, both by Jeff A. Benner.

I dedicate this workbook in honor of my late wise friend, Gayleen, who encouraged me to write all that I have discovered. Thank you, Cornerstone Music Festival and Exodus International. Your views were misleading and damaging to many people. However, I am grateful for the initial hope you gave me in my early dark days of despair. Thank you, Gay Christian Network (GCN), now known as Queer Christian Fellowship (QCF), for showing me a better way to process my sexuality. Thank you, Patty Daniels, Shaw, Pastor Tom Millner and Church of the Holy Spirit Song in Ft. Lauderdale, Pastor Jeff Miner and Life Journey Oasis group, Rachelle Hope, Frankie Wolff, Ibbby, Natalie Manor, Wayne Holmes, Ruth Hadley, Sue Collins, Ruth Ann Steele, and Bonnie Engels for walking with me on my journey. I am grateful to my father who taught me to love, appreciate, and study the Bible. I am extremely grateful for the diligent efforts of Jan Franke. Jan reached out to me, so that together, we could edit my original workbook appropriately for her church. Chapter by chapter, she challenged my thought processes, and gave constructive feedback. Due to her influence, this workbook has improved immensely. Lastly, thank you, Spirit of Truth, for inspiration and guidance.

May you find peace, love and joy in abundance as you search out the Scriptures for yourself as Scripture interprets Scripture. "*Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth,*" II Timothy 2:15.