

an essay:

GOD FORBIDS THE SIN OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE BIBLE

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I. INTRODUCTION

There is much debate these days among Protestant, Jewish and Catholic people of Faith, and assault from without by the heathen world, on what Holy Scripture says about homosexuality, the very definition of and the institution of marriage, and what is the proper attitude towards homosexuality. What does Moses say of homosexuality in The Torah? What does our Lord JESUS CHRIST say of sodomy in The Gospels? And what do The Apostles say of homosexuality in The Epistles?

What of clergy who contradict GOD's Word and proclaim that homosexuality is not a sin? To Where and to Whom are men and women to resort to for the strength to resist giving in to the temptation of homosexual sin? And Where, when men and women fall into the sin of homosexual acts themselves, is there Grace to repent, forgiveness of the sin-laden soul, healing of broken lives and the strength needed to avoid such sins in the future? Here we will look together for answers to these questions in The Holy Scriptures, The inspired and unerring Word of GOD.

II. A MATTER OF DEFINITION

The term "gay" today has been falsely appropriated in our ungodly age to mean "homosexual." But those who have fallen into the sin of homosexuality are anything but happy, nor do they have peace in any part of their lives, for they knowingly live in open rebellion to GOD. The more correct term, employed in more righteous ages of the past, is "sodomite," derived from the Biblical account of Divine judgement and destruction of the exceedingly wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary does not list the term "homosexual," but defines "sodomite" simply as "an inhabitant of Sodom" and then "one guilty of sodomy."¹ Webster defines the act of "sodomy" as simply "a crime against nature."² Webster here repeats the ancient Christian instruction book, The Apostolic Constitutions, which says that "The sin of Sodom is contrary to nature."³ The 1983 edition of Webster's Desk

¹ 1, Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary, entry for "sodomite, noun, p SOC-SOF. No page numbers.

² 1, Ibid.

³ 2, Early Christian Beliefs, "homosexuality," 16th entry, p 347. "Apostolic Constitutions (compiled c. 390, E), 7.463."

Dictionary is more explicit in defining sodomy: “unnatural especially anal or oral, copulation” or “copulation of a human with an animal.”⁴

Moses records in The Torah for us in GENESIS 18:20 that “...the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great” and “their sin is very grievous.”⁵ So The LORD sent two angels to Sodom to examine the renown of the evil of those cities. GOD’s servant Lot, seeing these two upright visitors to be in danger from the violent evildoers of the city, took them into his home under his protection. Lot did not yet know, however, that these two visitors were in fact angels of GOD, nor why they had come to Sodom. In GENESIS 19:4-5, it is further recorded how “...the men of Sodom, compassed the house [of Lot] round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them!”⁶

The people of Sodom desired en masse to sexually defile these two visitors under Lot’s protection, not knowing they were in fact angels from Heaven, sent by The Almighty, come to examine their ways! Thus the sinful men of Sodom and their sister city of sin Gomorrah sealed their own fate under Divine judgement by their own abominable wickedness. Therefore we read in GENESIS 19:24, “Then The LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from The LORD out of Heaven.”⁷ The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was certainly not an inadequate “hospitality,” as many apostates and heretics try to redefine it today, but rather the sin of homosexuality, i.e. “sodomy.” It was for the widespread sexual perversions which fall under this definition that the hand of The LORD sent forth Divine judgement upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

So in GENESIS 19:24 we have The Revelation through Moses that the fire and brimstone which came down upon these wicked cities was, as Keil and Delitzsch observe, “no mere [natural] storm with lightning, which set on fire the soil already overcharged with naphtha and sulphur!” Nyet! This was The Divine wrath of

⁴ 3, Webster’s 1983 Desk Dictionary, entry for “sodomy,” noun, p 857.

⁵ 4, KJV, GENESIS 18:20. Moses refers to the sinfulness of Sodom and Gomorrah throughout GENESIS 18 & 19. See also DEUTERONOMY 29:23, 32:32.

⁶ 4, KJV, GENESIS 19:4-5.

⁷ 4, KJV, GENESIS 19:24.

“JEHOVAH present upon earth in His angels who called down the judgment, and The JEHOVAH enthroned in Heaven Who sent it down! ...The Words are to be understood quite literally, as meaning that brimstone and fire, i.e. burning brimstone, fell from the sky...” upon the deeply perverse and exceedingly sinful inhabitants of these two cities! ⁸

In The Writings, the major prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel - and the minor prophets Amos and Zephaniah - refer to the iniquity of and the Divine judgement that befell Sodom as a historical event. So we have the prophet Isaiah prophesying against the openly boastful and proud wickedness of GOD’s people in his own day in ISAIAH 3:8-9, “For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against The LORD, to provoke the eyes of His glory. The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves!” ⁹

Our Lord JESUS CHRIST refers to the Divine destruction of Sodom as a historical fact in The Gospels. In MATTHEW 10:14-15, as He sends out His Disciples, He tells them, “And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. ...It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.” ¹⁰ And for example we read in LUKE 17:29, “But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.” ¹¹

We also find in The other New Testament Books references to the historical example of Divine judgement on Sodom and her sister city for their great abominations before The LORD. Saint Peter writes in II PETER 2:6-9 of the arm of The Almighty “...turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes [and] condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly. And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked... [For] The Lord

⁸ 5, Commentary on The Old Testament, Vol. 1, The First Book of Moses, Chap. XIX. 28-38, p 235.

⁹ 4, KJV, ISAIAH 3:8-9. See also ISAIAH 1:9, 13:9; JEREMIAH 23:14, 49:18, 50:40; LAMENTATIONS 4:6; EZEKIEL 16:46-56; AMOS 4:11; ZEPHANIAH 2:9.

¹⁰ 4, KJV, MATTHEW 10:14-15.

¹¹ 4, KJV, LUKE 17:29. See also MATTHEW 11:23-24; MARK 6:11; LUKE 10:12, 17:29.

knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished!”¹²

Such were the sins of ancient Sodom, that their legacy is forever embedded in the Biblically correct term for the man engaged in homosexual sin in the word for that most unclean wickedness which bears the name of their very city – “sodomite.” As Saint Clement of Alexandria observes of such sexual confusion and perversion, “Men play the part of women, and women that of men, contrary to nature... O miserable spectacle! Horrible conduct!”¹³

III. WHAT MOSES SAYS IN THE TORAH

In The Torah, we find that GOD Himself instituted marriage as between one man and one woman. The first married couple, by Divine design, was Adam and Eve in the Garden. GENESIS 1:27 records, “So GOD created man in His Own Image, in The Image of GOD created He him; male and female created He them.”¹⁴ As Keil and Delitzsch comment, “Man is The Image of GOD by virtue of his spiritual nature, of the breath of GOD by which the being, formed from the dust of the earth becomes a living soul... created a consciously free Ego.”¹⁵

At the creation of ‘ADAM - אָדָם – GOD created mankind in The Garden in both the male and female gender to compliment one another together as a unit of one.¹⁶ And though the man Adam was created first by GOD, and the woman Eve created second from the very substance of Adam, only husband and wife together are what we may call “complementarily complete” as human kind, blessed by the hand of the Creator as the first couple of man and woman married and bound together as one.¹⁷ From the very

¹² 4, KJV, II PETER 2:6-9. See also JUDE 1:7; REVELATION 11:8.

¹³ 2, Early Christian Beliefs, “homosexuality,” 9th entry, p 347. “Clement of Alexandria (c. 195, E), 2.276.”

¹⁴ 4, KJV, GENESIS 1:27.

¹⁵ 5, Commentary on The Old Testament, Vol. 1, The First Book of Moses, Chap I. 24-31, p 63.

¹⁶ 6, BHS, GENESIS 1:27. ‘ADAM - אָדָם – man, meaning mankind, both male and female.

¹⁷ 7, Whittaker’s R-BDB Hebrew Lexicon, B130 ‘ADAM - אָדָם – noun, masculine: mankind
1. a man (= German Mensch) = human being; = any one; seldom man [as] opposed [to] woman.
2. collectively man, mankind; distinctly = men + women; given as name; but = warriors; made in GOD’s Image; as feeble, earthly, mortal; as sinful; of men in general, other men...; 3. noun proper masculine Adam, first man.... (pg 9)

beginning of creation, GOD made marriage between one man and one woman as husband and wife.

And then The Creator gave a mandate to Adam and Eve in GENESIS 1:28: He first blessed them. He second commanded them to begin to populate the earth with their children. He third gave them dominion over all the earth. “And GOD blessed them, and GOD said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”¹⁸ These Divine mandates to mankind were given to the first married couple in their unity as one before and by The LORD, that they together should be blessed, have children and take dominion over all the earth.¹⁹

So The Catechism of The Catholic Church declares that the union between a husband and wife within the confines of marriage serves two basic functions as ordained by GOD, namely “the good of the spouses themselves and the transmission of life.”²⁰ Homosexual relationships by their very nature meet neither of these Divinely ordained purposes of marriage, they being “acts of grave depravity... [and] are intrinsically disordered. They are contrary to the Natural Law [of creation]. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved.”²¹

So when Moses records The Almighty’s Word in GENESIS 2:24 as to why marriage is between one man and one woman, he is reflecting the very order of creation designed for man as made and ordained by the hand of GOD: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”²² As Keil and Delitzsch observe, “The design of GOD in the creation of the woman is perceived by Adam, as soon as he awakes, when the woman is brought to him by GOD.” Adam understands immediately that mankind is complete in the union as one of man and woman – husband and wife – and no other as designed by The Creator.²³ For any sexual relations outside the confines of holy matrimony as designed by GOD is

¹⁸ 4, KJV, GENESIS 1:28.

¹⁹ 5, Commentary on The Old Testament, Vol. 1, The First Book of Moses, Chap I. 24-31, p 65.

²⁰ 8, Catechism of The Catholic Church, III. The Love of Husband and Wife, # 2353, p 627.

²¹ 8, Catechism of The Catholic Church, Chastity and homosexuality, #2357, p 625.

²² 4, KJV, GENESIS 2:24.

²³ 5, Commentary on The Old Testament, Vol. 1, The First Book of Moses, Chap III., 18-25, p 90.

therefore rebellion against The Divine will, be it polygamy, adultery, promiscuity, cohabitation, divorce, rape, abortion or – as is our current subject of attention – homosexuality.

Further, GOD specifically prohibits homosexuality. In The Law of Moses we find in LEVITICUS 18:22, “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is an abomination.”²⁴ In other words, sodomy is abhorrently wicked in the eyes of The LORD because it is diametrically contrary to the Divine design for human existence and happiness between the sexes and the marriage covenant. Moses records The Word of The LORD further in LEVITICUS 20:13, reflecting the dire seriousness of the offense of engaging in homosexual behaviour: “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.”²⁵

In both LEVITICUS 18:22 and 20:13, the act of sodomy is declared by GOD in The Law of Moses to be TO’EVAH - תועבה – abomination.²⁶ The meaning of the word is that which is in particular repugnant to GOD and to His faithful people. This includes objectionable acts offensive to the holiness of The Creator and the righteousness of the saints, such as the worship of idols and those who bow down to them, the then common pagan practice of offering up live human infants in the flames to false gods, intermarriage with idolaters, the sacrifices and prayers offered up to The Almighty by wicked and spiritually unclean men, and all forms of sexual impurity outside the confines of what GOD has ordained as holy matrimony within The Law of Moses as first instituted by The Creator in The Garden at the beginning of creation.²⁷ Therefore all

²⁴ 4, KJV, LEVITICUS 18:22.

²⁵ 4, KJV, LEVITICUS 20:13.

²⁶ 6, BHS, LEVITICUS 18:22 and 20:13, the act of sodomy is said to be TO’EVAH - תועבה - abomination.

²⁷ 7, Whittaker’s R-BDB Hebrew Lexicon, B10967 TO’EVAH - תועבה - noun feminine: abomination -- 1. ritual sense: a. Israel's sacrifices; ...of physical repugnance. b. to GOD and his people: ...of unclean food; worshipper of idols; various objectionable acts; offering of children... [as human sacrifices to false gods]; idolatrous practices... [and] other illegal acts [against GOD and His Law] (intermarriage with idolaters); ...of idols; idolatrous objects. 2. ethical sense: ...of man ...to GOD and His people: ...of sacrifice of [the] wicked [man and] his prayers; unchastity... (pg 1072)

homosexual acts are TO"EVAH - תועבה – abomination.²⁸

IV. WHAT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST SAYS IN THE GOSPELS

What does our Lord JESUS CHRIST say in the Gospels about homosexuality? Why were all the Apostles men? And why does JESUS Himself not specifically condemn homosexuality? Firstly, in that day and age, women were not allowed any public roles, but were rather limited to the family roles of wives and mothers; their presence in a public ministry as Apostles of CHRIST would have been unthinkable.

In the Writings, we find a Biblical description and worth of the godly woman in PROVERBS 31:11-12, “The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.”²⁹ For “She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her... Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth The LORD, she shall be praised!”³⁰ Such a woman as a godly wife and mother is, as The Law of Moses declares, “one flesh” with her husband. As The early Church’s Apostolic Constitutions declare, “...the husband and wife are one in nature, in consent, in union, in disposition and the conduct of life” within The Sacrament of holy matrimony.³¹ The GOD-fearing woman was in that culture, found in the home serving as a faithful wife and mother.

Secondly, JESUS did not have to specifically forbid homosexuality, as it was well understood to be an “abomination” worthy of “death” in The Law of Moses, which we have already noted. So The Lord declares in MATTHEW 5:17-18, “Think not that I am come to destroy The Law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from The Law, till all be fulfilled!”³² The heaven and earth are still in their places, as since the dawn of creation, and GOD’s Law prohibiting the sin of homosexuality remains

²⁸ 6, BHS, LEVITICUS 18:22 and 20:13, the act of sodomy is said to be TO"EVAH - תועבה - abomination.

²⁹ 4, KJV, PROVERBS 31:11-12.

³⁰ 4, KJV, PROVERBS 31:27-30

³¹ 2, Early Church Beliefs, “Marriage,” I. Admonition and counsel on marriage, 3rd entry, p 426. “Apostolic Constitutions (compiled c. 390, E), 7.466.”

³² 4, KJV, MATTHEW 5:17.

fully in effect.

So CHRIST reaffirms from The Law of Moses the Divinely ordained structure for The Sacrament of holy matrimony as between only one man and one woman in MATTHEW 19:4-6: “...Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore GOD hath joined together, let not man put asunder!”³³

The Words of Moses recorded in GENESIS 2:24 being The Word of GOD describing the Divine design of marriage between one man and one woman, our Lord thus repeats this in MATTHEW 19:4-6. As Keil and Delitzsch observe, “By the leaving of father and mother, which applies to the woman as well as to the man, the conjugal union is shown to be a spiritual oneness, a vital communion of heart as well as of body, in which it finds its consummation” in the two becoming as one within marriage.³⁴ Therefore CHRIST concludes that, what GOD has ordained and joined together between a husband and wife in The Sacrament of marriage, man should neither pull apart, nor undermine, nor corrupt with ungodly redefinitions. So as Moses excludes sodomy as within the confines of what is ordained of GOD, so even more so does our Lord Himself.

V. WHAT SAINT PAUL SAYS IN THE EPISTLES

Saint Paul reaffirms GOD’s prohibition against homosexuality throughout The Epistles. When Christianity began its spread beyond the Jewish homeland into all the Gentile nations, however, such understanding of the prohibition of homosexuality under the Law of Moses was not a given of society outside of Israel. Remember the Faithful were living in a very confused, corrupt, barbaric and heathen world. Thus, Saint Paul rebukes the ungodly paganism of his day in his Epistles to the Churches in Rome and Corinth.

Saint Paul declares that The Creator is to be clearly known in His being by His works of creation, that we may discern that GOD our Maker exists when we look at the

³³ 4, KJV, MATTHEW 19:4-6.

³⁴ 5, Commentary on The Old Testament, Vol. 1, The First Book of Moses, Chap III. 18-25, p 90-91.

physical world all around us. But when men's hearts become corrupt and dark beyond a certain point, Saint Paul declares in ROMANS 1:24-25, "Wherefore GOD also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 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."³⁵

Saint Paul is further absolutely clear as to the wickedness and fate of those who are lost in the sin of homosexuality – a rebellion against the very order of creation – in ROMANS 1:26-29, "For this cause 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 recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain GOD in their knowledge, GOD gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"³⁶

Wycliffe comments on this sorry state of affairs addressed in ROMANS 1 that, "...women exchanged natural sex relations for that which is contrary to nature. The men did the same thing. Paul pictures the depravity and degradation of men inflamed with sensual desire for each other. This is followed by the note of [Divine] judgement. 'In themselves... that recompense... which was necessary.'"³⁷ GOD then gives such men up "eis pathe atimais" - εἰς πάθη ἀτιμίας, - into passions of dishonour,³⁸ i.e. depraved passions of disgrace, shame and humiliation.³⁹ So the New American Bible renders ROMANS 1:26 as, "Therefore, GOD handed them over to degrading passions..."⁴⁰ The New International Version, "Because of this, GOD gave them over to shameful lusts..."⁴¹ The Young's Literal Translation, "Because of this did GOD give them up to

³⁵ 4, KJV, ROMANS 1:24-25.

³⁶ 4, KJV, ROMANS 1:26-29.

³⁷ 9, Wycliffe Bible Commentary, ROMANS 1:26-27, p 1187.

³⁸ 10, GNT, ROMANS 1:26. GOD gives the depraved man up "into passions of dishonour" - εἰς πάθη ἀτιμίας

³⁹ 11, Barklay-Newman Greek Lexicon, UBS, [atimai] ἀτιμία, feminine: disgrace, dishonor, shame; humiliation... Given here in describing the passions of the sexually depraved in ROMANS 1:26, "ἀτιμίας noun genitive feminine singular" form.

⁴⁰ 12, NAB, ROMANS 1:26.

⁴¹ 13, NIV, ROMANS 1:26.

dishonourable affections...”⁴² When people are lost in certain sins – and here Saint Paul address the sin of sodomy - and they continually refuse in hardheartedness The Divine Grace and Mercy offered to them, there comes a point at which GOD gives sinners up to their chosen sins and the terrible earthly and eternal consequences thereof.

And here we find in ROMANS 1:29-32 the hallmarks of homosexuality which we see so militantly parading itself in our own age: “Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of GOD, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of GOD, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”⁴³

Saint Clement of Rome quotes Saint Paul here, declaring that “neither fornicators, nor homosexuals... will inherit The Kingdom of GOD.”⁴⁴ Saint Paul declares, among many other unrepentant sinners, that those who die unrepentant with the sin of homosexuality over their souls shall not enter Heaven in I CORINTHIANS 6:9-10: “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit The Kingdom of GOD? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit The Kingdom of GOD!”⁴⁵

That sodomy is a mortal sin that will cost a man his earthly happiness and, worse yet, is eternal soul is made even more clear to us in The New International Version Bible in I CORINTHIANS 6:9-10: “Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of GOD? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexual offenders, Nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers will inherit The Kingdom of GOD.”⁴⁶ As Wycliffe observes here, “the unjust have no place in His Kingdom.” Saint Paul’s catalogue of

⁴² 14, YLT, ROMANS 1:26.

⁴³ 4, KJV, ROMANS 1:29-32.

⁴⁴ 2, Early Christian Beliefs, “homosexuality,” 3rd entry, p 347. “Clement of Rome (c. 96, W), 1.34.”

⁴⁵ 4, KJV, I CORINTHIANS 6:9-10.

⁴⁶ 13, NIV, I CORINTHIANS 6:9-10.

mortal sins, common in both the ancient and modern worlds, warns us in no uncertain terms that “genuine faith produces good works..., and that the absence of good works indicates lack of faith.”⁴⁷

And if a man, because of such a mortal sin, may not in his soul enter into GOD’s eternal Kingdom Above, he most certainly may not receive any of GOD’s blessings or protection in The Lord’s Kingdom in this life – The faithful Church – here on earth! Lest there be any doubt as to the meaning of Saint Paul in I CORINTHIANS 6:9-10, observe The Young’s Literal Translation of this Passage: “have ye not known that the unrighteous the reign of GOD shall not inherit? be not led astray; neither whoremongers, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, the reign of GOD shall inherit.”⁴⁸

In The King James Version, we have “effeminate... abusers of themselves with mankind.” In The New International Version we have “male prostitutes... homosexual offenders.” In The Young’s Literal Translation we have “effeminate... sodomites.” These English translations all arise from the Greek New Testament in I CORINTHIANS 6:9 “...οὐτε μαλακοὶ οὐτε ἀρσενοκοῖται”⁴⁹ - oute malakoi oute arsenokoitai. So here we have a list of unrepentant sinners whose end is hell, ending in this verse with – nor the effeminate man, the “homosexual pervert”⁵⁰ nor the homosexual, the “male sexual pervert” shall enter into The Kingdom of GOD.⁵¹ Among those who will not enter GOD’s eternal rest Above are clearly then practicing, unrepentant homosexuals.

⁴⁷ 9, Wycliffe Bible Commentary, I CORINTHIANS 6:9-10, P 1238. Compare Saint Paul in EPHESIANS 2:8-10 with Saint James in JAMES 2:14-26. Both are in agreement, in that genuine faith and good works are inseparably coupled together in the earnest Christian man.

⁴⁸ 14, YLT, I CORINTHIANS 6:9-10.

⁴⁹ 10, GNT, I CORINTHIANS 6:9.

⁵⁰ 11, Barklay-Newman Greek Lexicon, [UBS] μαλακός, ἢ, όν (malakos) “soft, fancy, luxurious; homosexual pervert...” Given in I CORINTHIANS 6:9 as “μαλακοὶ (malakoi) adjective pronoun nominative masculine plural” form.

⁵¹ 11, Barklay-Newman Greek Lexicon, [UBS] ἀρσενοκοίτης, ου masculine, noun: (arsenokoites) “male sexual pervert.” Given in I CORINTHIANS 6:9 as “ἀρσενοκοῖται (arsenokoitai) noun nominative masculine plural” form.

VI. APOSTATE CLERGY WHO CONDONE HOMOSEXUALITY

What then of clergy who, clearly contradicting Holy Scripture, declare that sodomy is not a sin, and is in fact normal, healthy and even blessed by GOD? If Scripture clearly teaches that homosexuality is prohibited because it is a sin, as we have seen, what of clergy who preach and advocate that sodomy is a normal and healthy lifestyle to be blessed by GOD, even the blasphemy of so-called “gay marriage?” The answer is clearly before us: such clergy are in fact apostates, false teachers, false prophets and wolves in sheep’s clothing. GOD will hold them to account for the pain, suffering, disease, death and damnation that such false doctrines cause among His flocks – they terrible pain and loss they cause in people’s lives in both this world and the next!

The prophet Jeremiah dealt with false prophets in his day who prophesied false tidings in The Name of The LORD, speaking false words of peace and security to the ungodly and corrupt leaders and people of Jerusalem. In that time and place, imminent Divine judgement was indeed about to fall upon Judea and Jerusalem, GOD employing the armies of the King of Babylon as His arm of wrath upon His unfaithful people. So The Almighty rebukes these false prophets in JEREMIAH 14:14 and warns the people of Jerusalem: “Then The LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in My Name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart!”⁵²

And after the terrible punishment and fall of Jerusalem, Jeremiah the true prophet of GOD wrote in LAMENTATIONS 2:14 of those false prophets who coddled the sins of GOD’s people, who diverted the people’s attention to false issues of insignificance, while enabling and even encouraging the mortal sins of the saints. This those false prophets did, while all the while the very lives and souls of GOD’s people were under the judgement of The Almighty because of their mortal sins, declaring “Peace! Prosperity!” when sin and abomination reigned! So Jeremiah lamented, O Jerusalem, “Thy [false] prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine

⁵² 4, KJV, JEREMIAH 14:14.

iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment!”⁵³

Our Lord JESUS CHRIST warns that such false prophets are as wolves in sheep’s clothing, that they may lead the sheep of GOD’s pastures astray. They are known by their wicked fruits, for they declare that which is openly and directly in contradiction to what GOD Himself has declared as good in The Holy Scriptures, and boldly proclaim as good what GOD Himself has declared as evil. So we read in MATTHEW 7:15-17, “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit!”⁵⁴

Saint Peter warns The Church that such false prophets enter into the midst of GOD’s people to sell us false words, that they might lead us into sin and endanger even our very souls! So we read in II PETER 2:1-3: “...there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying The Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom The Way of Truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not!”⁵⁵

VII. RESIST TEMPTATIONS IN THE LORD’S STRENGTH

In a debased and iniquitous culture that calls evil good and good evil, that pushes all manner of ungodliness upon all of us – but especially upon young people - as the norm, that encourages youth to enter into the sodomite lifestyle as if it were something wholesome and to be proud of, how can people possibly resist the temptation to engage in the sins of homosexual behaviours? As in the resisting the temptation of all sins, The Answer for men is to be found in The Person of GOD Incarnate, JESUS CHRIST. The Creator knows the trials and temptations we endure in our lives, for GOD Himself came

⁵³ 4, KJV, LAMENTATIONS 2:14.

⁵⁴ 4, KJV, MATTHEW 7:15-17.

⁵⁵ 4, KJV, II PETER 2:1-3.

Incarnate among us as JESUS The Messiah, and gave Himself on The Cross to redeem us from sin and death back to Himself. It is in Him that we may resist temptations to sin!

Before CHRIST began His earthly public ministry, Saint Matthew records in MATTHEW 4:1, “Then was JESUS led up of The Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.”⁵⁶ But as our Redeemer resisted the temptations of the devil and rebuked him, so we may also stand in our Lord’s Grace and Spirit and do the same! Having failed to tempt The Saviour into sin against The Father Above, we read in MATTHEW 4:11, “Then the devil leaveth Him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him.”⁵⁷ CHRIST’s victory is our victory over the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil! Saint Ignatius explains that our Lord thus crucified our sins, “...along with... [our Tempter the devil] who is the inventor of it. CHRIST has condemned all the deceit and malice of the devil under the feet of those who carry Him in their hearts!”⁵⁸

It is not in the being tempted that is the sin, but only in the giving in to the temptation to break GOD’s Law that is the sin. We are all tempted to do all manner of evil in life on a regular basis, and we all at times fall into sin in this life. But what does Saint James say in JAMES 4:6-8 of the temptations that besets us by the world, the flesh and especially the devil? That if we resort to The Almighty and His Mercy, He will give us the necessary Grace in CHRIST to resist sin: “But He giveth more Grace. Wherefore he saith, GOD resisteth the proud, but giveth Grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to GOD. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to GOD, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded!”⁵⁹

For those who struggle with temptation to engage in sodomy, there is the strength and Grace of The Lord to resist them at The Cross of CHRIST, if those tempted will avail themselves of that help. For many there is complete deliverance from and healing of homosexual temptations - and homosexual sins - at The Cross. As The Catechism of The

⁵⁶ 4, KJV, MATTHEW 4:1.

⁵⁷ 4, KJV, MATTHEW 4:11.

⁵⁸ 2, Early Christian Beliefs, “atonement,” I. Atonement Through CHRIST, 10th entry, p 42. “Ignatius (c. 105, E), 1.129.”

⁵⁹ 4, KJV, JAMES 4:6-8.

Catholic Church states, for those who do not find such deliverance and are unable to enter into The Sacrament of marriage as defined by GOD's Word, such "homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of... [Christian] friendship, by prayer and sacramental Grace [found in The Church], they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection." ⁶⁰

VIII. CONFESS AND REPENT WHEN WE SIN

And when we do find ourselves sinning – whatever that sin may be - the thing then required of us is to confess, repent, cease from engaging in the sin, make atonement as is possible to those we have injured and return back to The LORD. For as David declares in PSALM 86:15 declares, "But thou, O Lord, art a GOD full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth!" ⁶¹ Remember King David had committed adultery with Bathsheba, had murdered her husband Urriah and abused the authority of Church and state to cover up these grievous sins! ⁶² David was a man who knew The Grace of The LORD firsthand, for after these most terrible sins, he confessed and repented of them by taking hold of GOD's ever extended Mercy! This is our same hope, which we have always offered to us at The blessed Cross. And so we may also cry out with David as in PSALM 86:16, "O [Lord,] turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give Thy strength unto Thy servant, and save the son of Thine handmaid!" ⁶³

Let us then not despair, for the means of GOD's forgiveness of our sins is ever at hand for all of us! Like David, come and let us take hold of GOD's ever extended Divine Mercy! For The Lord JESUS CHRIST, as He instituted The Holy Communion, did so with These Words in MATTHEW 26:26-28, "And as they were eating, JESUS took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; This is My Body. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is My Blood of The New Testament, which is shed for many for the

⁶⁰ 8, Catechism of The Catholic Church, Chastity and homosexuality, # 2359, p 626.

⁶¹ 4, KJV, PSALM 86:15.

⁶² 4, KJV, see II SAMUEL 11 & 12; PSALM 51.

⁶³ 4, KJV, PSALM 86:16.

remission of sins!”⁶⁴ As Saint Clement of Rome explains, “Because of the love He... [has] for us, JESUS CHRIST our Lord gave His Blood for us by the will of GOD. He gave His Flesh for our flesh, and His Soul for our souls!”⁶⁵ For The Eucharist is “a remedy to free us from our daily faults and to preserve us from mortal sins!”⁶⁶

GOD has given us the conscience, that we might be convicted of our sins, repent of them and return to The LORD. And we are all sinners in need of GOD’s Mercy! I have carried my own sins, and you have carried yours, over our souls. Come, my friends, and let us carry our sins together to The Cross of our Loving Redeemer, there to lay them down before Him and be washed of them forever! Therefore, as Saint John declares in I JOHN 1:6-7, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in The Light, as He is in The Light, we have fellowship one with another, and The Blood of JESUS CHRIST His Son cleanseth us from all sin!”⁶⁷ Why should we stand in darkness and shame any longer? Come, and let us together be washed in The Blood of The Lamb, and His righteousness will make us clean!

IX. DISCUSSION – CONVICTION OF SIN AND FORGIVENESS AT THE CROSS

Here then I will say this clearly: a Protestant, Jew or Catholic who rejects The clear Words of Scripture on such matters as the prohibition of homosexuality enters his life and soul into the realm of the blasphemer, the apostate and even the heathen. But if we are to live faithfully to GOD, we must accept The Divinely directed Holy Scriptures that define our Faith. And make no mistake, for all men are commanded to live under GOD’s Laws and answer to GOD, The Author of Those Laws. None are exempt. For we live by The Almighty’s Terms and not ours. And, as we have seen here, The Holy Scriptures, in both The Old and New Testaments, consistently and clearly reveal that GOD forbids the sin of homosexuality, i.e. “sodomy.”

⁶⁴ 4, KJV, MATTHEW 26:26-28.

⁶⁵ 2, Early Christian Beliefs, “atonement,” I. Atonement Through CHRIST, 9th entry, p 42. “Clement of Rome (c. 96, W), 1.18.”

⁶⁶ 8, Catechism of The Catholic Church, V. Penance in the Christian Life, # 1435, p 400.

⁶⁷ 4, KJV, I JOHN 1:6-7.

But why should we obey GOD in this and in all things? For many reasons, but I see this one in particular: GOD gives us His Moral Laws in Holy Scripture because He loves us, wants to protect us, and see us flourish and be happy on this earth and in the hereafter. We violate those Divine Moral Laws at our own earthly and eternal peril. As The Roman Catholic Church so rightly declares, “sin is before all else an offense against GOD, a rupture of communion with Him. At the same time it damages communion with The Church. For this reason conversion entails both GOD’s forgiveness and reconciliation with The Church, which are expressed and accomplished liturgically by The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.”⁶⁸ We can not possess These Great Blessings if we choose to continue to walk and live in open, boastful, sinful rebellion against our Maker and His Decrees.

And where shall we go to receive the full blessings of GOD? Only to The faithful Church. For in The faithful Church is The Holy Sacrament of covenantal salvation and newness of life in CHRIST through Baptism. In The faithful Church is the Holy Sacrament of receiving The Eucharist – The Holy Communion - to wash, renew, assure and strengthen us in righteousness in CHRIST. In The faithful Church there is Confession, Penance and Reconciliation for us when we fall into sin. In The faithful Church is The Word of GOD read, preached and expounded, that we may be guided into all good things. And in The faithful Church is the fellowship of the saints, that we need not stand alone against the storms of life, but shoulder to shoulder with our Lord and our fellow saints. For GOD Himself, “The Father of mercies, is the source of all forgiveness. He effects the reconciliation of sinners through The Passover of His Son [JESUS CHRIST] and the gift of His [HOLY] SPIRIT, through the prayer and ministry of The Church.”⁶⁹

Saint Cyprian calls sinners to be saved in CHRIST, that they may live. And Saint Cyprian calls the saved in CHRIST to confess their sins, that they may be forgiven: “I entreat you, beloved brethren, that each one should confess his own sins while he is still in this world – while his confession can still be received and while the satisfaction and

⁶⁸ 8, Catechism of The Catholic Church, VI. Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, Lumen Gentium 11, 1440, p 401.

⁶⁹ 8, Catechism of The Catholic Church, The Sacrament of Forgiveness, # 1449, p 404.

remission made by the priests are still pleasing to The Lord!”⁷⁰ All men would do well to follow this advice, for there is neither peace nor rest for our lives and souls anywhere else but at The Cross of CHRIST! For, as the writer of HEBREWS says of GOD’s Grace awaiting us in The Saviour JESUS CHRIST in HEBREWS 4:15-16, “For we have not... [a mere human] high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but [JESUS CHRIST] was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto The Throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find Grace to help in time of need!”⁷¹

X. IN CONCLUSION

There should be no debate among The Faithful saints of GOD – Jews, Protestants and Catholics – as to the sinful nature of homosexual acts, i.e. sodomy. If we truly love GOD, we will happily keep His Commandments. This, even though the heathen world from without, and corruptors from within, are aggressively trying to rewrite what Holy Scripture says about the sin of homosexual acts. They wish to change the very definition of and the institution itself of marriage. They desire to undo what The Creator has declared is the proper attitude towards the sin of homosexual sin. They seek to silence all opposing voices, most especially those who speak from Faith consistent with The Word of GOD. And they then would have all men join them in their rebellion against The LORD, that we actively partake with them their rebellion in calling evil good and good evil. But these voices of darkness, though seemingly today strong and even overwhelming, are but dust in the wind because they are in rebellion to The Almighty and His Holy Word. For, thanks be to GOD, The Creator is sovereign and not men.

We have seen that The Old and New Testaments consistently forbid the sin of sodomy and warn of its terrible earthly and eternal consequences. Moses, the prophets, JESUS CHRIST and The Apostles all speak here with one voice to us from Holy Scripture. Those so-called clergy who openly contradict GOD’s Word by proclaiming that sodomy is not a sin are not to be heard by The Faithful. We are all called to resist the temptations to sin in our lives. This includes resisting temptations to fall into committing

⁷⁰ 2, Early Christian Beliefs, “absolution,” 1st entry, p 5. “Cyprian (c. 250 W), 5.445.”

⁷¹ 4, KJV, HEBREWS 4:15-16.

acts of homosexual sin. This we may do by receiving The Grace of GOD in JESUS CHRIST, enlightened by The Word of GOD, guided by The faithful Church, strengthened by The HOLY SPIRIT and encouraged by our fellow saints in CHRIST.

And when we fall into sin, one being the sin of homosexuality, we have The One Who came to redeem our lives and souls to resort to at The Cross. There in CHRIST we will find – if we but seek it – The Grace of GOD we need for confession, repentance, forgiveness of our sins, healing of our souls and strength to avoid such sins in the future. Let us then not despair: GOD is still in control, as he always has been and always will be. Let us resist the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil. And when we fall into sin, let us humbly and earnestly repent at The Cross of CHRIST. The King of The Universe forbids the sin of homosexuality in His Holy Word. So must His people. In The Name of GOD The Father, and The Son and The Holy Ghost. AMEN.

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