

THE BIBLE ON HOMOSEXUALITY

Dear Parishioners,

In light of the recent decision of the US Supreme Court against marriage, I thought to provide you again with some scriptural quotes on homosexuality. * There are those who say the Word of God is silent on the issue. You can judge for yourself.

-Father de Rosa

FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Do not defile yourselves by any of these things [previous verses had listed the sins of illicit sex, child sacrifice, sodomy and bestiality], for by all these the nations I am casting out before you defiled themselves, and the land became defiled, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants... **Leviticus 18:19-30**

If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them shall have committed an abomination... **Leviticus 20:13**

Note: The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Old Testament were known for the fact that their inhabitants practiced homosexuality. The two following citations from Genesis speak in this context:

Then the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry which has come to Me, and if not, I will know. **Genesis 18:20**

...Two angels arrived at Lot's house, under the appearance of two handsome young men: But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house; and they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." Lot went out of the door to the men, shut the door after him, and said, "I beg you, brothers, do not act so wickedly..."

But the men [the angels] put forth their hands and brought Lot into the house to them and shut the door. And they struck with blindness the men who were at the door of the house, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves groping for the door...Then the men said to Lot, "Have you any one else here? ... For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it..."Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground... **Genesis chapter 19**

Note: the above passages clearly refer to homosexuality. Further proof of this is that both Saint Peter and Saint Jude make specific reference to Sodom and Gomorrah when they condemn homosexuality, see next column...

FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT:

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who brought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction... from of old their condemnation has not been idle, and their destruction has not been asleep...

If by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes He condemned them to extinction and made them an example to those who were to be ungodly; and if He rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the licentiousness of the wicked (for by what that righteous man saw and heard as he lived among them, he was vexed in his righteous soul day after day with their lawless deeds, then the Lord knows how to rescue the righteous from trial, and keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. **2 Peter 2**

...Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities which likewise acted immorally and indulged in unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire... **Jude verse 7**

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God. **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

...Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever! Amen.

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. Their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in their own persons the due penalty for their error. **Romans 1:24-27**

Now we know that the law is good, if anyone uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, immoral persons, sodomites, kidnapers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is opposed to sound doctrine... **1 Timothy 8-10**

* They are all from the Revised Standard Version (RSV) of the Bible, widely considered to be the best English translation.