

What God Has to Say About Homosexual Practices and Marriage

Paraphrase of Romans 1:16-32

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power resulting in a divine rescue from sin in the case of everyone who is believing – both to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷Because God's right-ness is revealed in it, originating in faith and producing additional faith, just like it has been written, "but the righteous man shall live on the basis of faith." ¹⁸Because the outrage of God is opened up to full view from heaven upon all irreverence (disrespect, profaneness) and unrighteousness of men who suppress (push down) the truth in acts of unrighteousness, ¹⁹Because that which is well-known about God is made clear and plain within themselves; because God has personally made it known in detail to them. ²⁰Because from the time of the creation of the cosmos, God's "not seen" attributes – both His eternal power and His standing as God – are being both intellectually grasped and clearly seen through that which He has made. The result: they are without excuse – indefensible! ²¹Because, even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as the God He is, nor did they feel any obligation toward Him at all. In contradistinction to this, they rather were given over to futility and worthlessness in their intellectual reasoning, and their clueless heart was cast under a pall of darkness. ²²Boasting themselves to be wise, they became morons, ²³and they rejected the glory of the immortal God and chose rather for themselves an image in the form (icon) of mortal, corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and reptiles. ²⁴For this reason, God delivered them over – immersed as they were in the sinful passions of their hearts – into the power of moral corruption with the result that they degraded and abused their physical bodies among themselves and their peers. ²⁵These people rejected the truth of God and chose rather for themselves the lie (deception) and both treated as sacred and served as sacred that which was created rather than the Creator (who made it all) who is blessed forever, Amen! ²⁶Specifically for this reason, God delivered them over to the power of degrading passions, for those of them who were of female gender rejected the natural created sexual function and chose rather for themselves that which is contrary to the natural created function (and therefore un-natural), ²⁷and in the very same way, the males abandoned the naturally created sexual function of the female and were inflamed in their lustful passion directed into one another, male in male, performing deformed, shameful, indecent acts, and in their own persons, receiving back to themselves in return, the morally necessary and inevitable penalty of their moral straying. ²⁸And just in the same way as they made a calculated decision not to be having God as an integral part of their body of knowledge and thinking, God delivered them over into the power of a depraved (morally corrupted) mind, to be doing those things that ought not to be done. ²⁹Being filled up full with all unrighteousness, aggressive wickedness, greed, evil; they are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, contemptuous, haughty, boasters, strategists of evil, not trusting their parents, ³¹void of understanding, not to be trusted, heartless, without compassion. ³²Although they know full well (they have a complete and accurate knowledge of) the standard of God's right-ness – which clearly states that those who practice such things are worthy of death – not only are they doing these same things but, beyond this, they are giving hearty approval to (applauding) those who practice these things in their lives.