



WHAT IS AN ABOMINATION TO GOD?



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## What Is an Abomination to God?

In Christian circles we sometimes meet the argument that "homosexual behavior" is the worst of sins and that God hates homosexuals. This is usually based on an "abomination" text, assuming that it indicates that same-gender sex is a worse sin than heterosexual sex in the same context. But is this really what the Bible says?

I believe that a careful study of the texts will yield quite different conclusions. So please join me in an investigation of the matter.

Sexual sins of any kind are considered "abominations" to the Lord.

Leviticus 18

### Unlawful Sexual Relations

- 1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
- 2 "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God.
- 3 You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes.
- 4 You shall follow my rules<sup>[a]</sup> and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God.
- 5 You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.
  
- 6 "None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the LORD.
- 7 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness.
- 8 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.
- 9 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether brought up in the family or in another home.
- 10 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your son's daughter or of your daughter's daughter, for their nakedness is your own nakedness.
- 11 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, brought up in your father's family, since she is your sister.
- 12 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's relative.
- 13 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's relative.
- 14 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother, that is, you shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt.
- 15 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son's wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness.
- 16 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.
- 17 You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and of her daughter, and you shall not take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter to uncover her nakedness; they are relatives; it is depravity.
- 18 And you shall not take a woman as a rival wife to her sister, uncovering her nakedness while her sister is still alive.

19 "You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness while she is in her menstrual uncleanness.

20 And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her.

21 You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

23 And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion.

24 "Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean,

25 and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.

26 But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you

27(for the people of the land, who were before you, did all of these abominations, so that the land became unclean),

28 lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.

29 For everyone who does any of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people.

30 So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God."

Pay particular attention to verses 27 - 30, which refer to "all these abominations" – after various kinds of sexual activities apart from marriage have been mentioned. A similar list is repeated in Leviticus 20, concluding that God's people ought not to do these things "after the manner of the nations which I cast out before you." We find that the levitical laws also forbade remarriages of divorced couples, calling such an act an "abomination." (Deuteronomy 24: 1 - 4) When we consider that Christ amplified these laws to include the lustful thought, **who is without sin to cast the first stone?**

Dishonest business practices are named as an "abomination" in Deuteronomy 25: 13 - 16, Proverbs 11: 1 and Proverbs 20: 10. It seems that scrupulously honest business practices are required of any professing to be the Lord's people. Do our practices pass the careful scrutiny of the Omniscient One?

Oppressive treatment of others and a haughty attitude are considered as "abomination" in Proverbs 3: 31 - 32, and a "froward heart" is again mentioned in Proverbs 11:20. I wonder if some of the attitudes of conservative Christians towards gay people might not fall into these categories of "abominations."

A list of six "abominations" are also given in Proverbs 6: 16 - 19:

These six things doth the LORD hate:  
yea, seven are an abomination unto him:  
A proud look, a lying tongue,  
and hands that shed innocent blood,  
An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations,  
feet that be swift in running to mischief,

A false witness that speaketh lies,  
and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Who can claim innocence from all these "abominations"? Are all the sure dispensers of judgments on gay people free from a "proud look" or "false witness"? (Who can be sure that words repeated are absolutely true?) Or sowing discord in God's congregation?

The simple term "wickedness" is equated with "abomination" in Proverbs 8:7. "Lying lips" are added to the list in Proverbs 12: 20 and a "proud heart" in Proverbs 16: 5. It seems then that pride and lies to further one's own agenda are every bit as hateful to a holy God as are sexual sins.

Who then can stand before Him?

Those that justify the wicked or condemn the just, as well as scorers are listed as "abominations" in Proverbs 17: 15 and Proverbs 24:9.

Prayer is added to the list of "abominations" if it comes from one who turns his ear from hearing the law in Proverbs 28:9. That becomes especially significant in view of the consideration that all of God's laws are summed up in the great principle of Love to God and to one's neighbors and that Christ Himself demonstrated that Law in His life. Are my prayers an "abomination"? Are yours?

I am forced to the conclusion that an "abomination" simply refers to something the Lord "hates" -- something totally out of harmony with His character of purity and love. If we take the biblical record as a whole, we find that pride and self-sufficiency are mentioned more often than any other qualities as being distasteful to God. And no wonder. Pride feels no need, and there's nothing even God can do for a self-sufficient sinner. That's why Jesus said that He came to save sinners and not the "righteous." Given that the Bible is clear that there is "none righteous," Christ's statement indicates as clearly as any other that a self-righteous spirit excludes its bearer from the kingdom of heaven.

Finally, not only did Christ clearly teach that a self-righteous spirit is a teflon-coated defense against saving grace, but He actually used the key word abomination in describing such a spirit. Luke gives this account in Luke 16: 15, 16 : "And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. And he said unto them, "Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

"That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Position, wealth, education, popularity, religiosity, the esteem of men -- these are abomination in the sight of God. In the final analysis, all our own "righteousness" is "abomination" in the sight of God. None can say, "I am better than you. My sin is not as bad as yours," for in so doing, we exclude ourselves from God's grace by our judgmental spirit and thus are lost without hope.

None of us is qualified to cast the first stone. We are all equally in need of restoration.

WOW!

That all seems so hard to bear. In this country, where you have a greater than 50% chance that your marriage will end in divorce, is it comforting to know that the remarriages of divorced couples is an

ABOMINATION to God? How about a Proud Heart? Or Sowing Discord among your friends? Position, Wealth, Education, Popularity, Religiosity, and the Esteem of Men are also included on the list of abominations to God. Go ahead, send your son or daughter to College to be a doctor or an attorney and you'll be condemning them to what? Education, Position, Wealth and the Esteem of Men! All ABOMINATIONS.

Wait a minute, this can't be right. God says to seek KNOWLEDGE, to seek UNDERSTANDING. God made Solomon the WEALTHIEST man on Earth. Doesn't the Bible itself say "STUDY to show thyself approved of God"? Don't we become JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST and take our POSITION with Him in Glory?

THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT. What? All of it. Paul tells us that the LAW was given to show us that we are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God. That we need someone or something to put us in a right standing with God. That someone or something obviously was/is Jesus Christ. He was the PLAN from the beginning. He is the Savior, He is the Redeemer, He is the Perfect Lamb. That list goes on and on, because Jesus has always been "THAT GUY". Jesus was not an emergency remedy, HE WAS THE PLAN (of salvation).

So, once again let me put the "Word" into the proper order for you. THE LAW CAME SO THAT YOU WOULD BE CONDEMNED. Leviticus, Deuteronomy, the Ten Commandments, the 416 Levitical laws, all condemn us. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Sin is an abomination to God. So, if you lie, steal, bear false witness, commit adultery, covet your neighbor's property, murder, or you're "gay" your behavior is an abomination to God. AND the wages of sin is DEATH. "Well, that's right, everyone dies." That's a lie from the pit of Hell. God's plan was for you to have life, and that life more abundantly! GOD PLANNED THAT YOU WERE TO LIVE FOREVER. That's where Jesus comes in. HE IS THE PLAN FOR YOUR SALVATION. "All that accept the Christ as Lord shall have life and that life is eternal life." "For you die (to the world of the fleshly) with Christ and you are raised (to the world of the Spiritual) with Christ. JESUS PAID THE PRICE. The judge said "guilty" and you shall be punished by..."Hold On" says the court clerk, "I see by the record that this man's (or woman's) fine has already been paid, in full!" "Well then" says the judge, "there is nothing left to do but to caution you and let you go". AND SO YOU GO, happy as a lark. Salvation is as available to you as sin is! IT IS BY GRACE THAT YOU ARE SAVED, not by works (so that no man can boast.) GRACE IS GOD'S GIFT.

People who sit around and moan and complain that God is not fair, are idiots. They have only to accept God's gifts to have A GREAT LIFE. NOT JUST SALVATION, EVERYTHING YOUR HEART DESIRES IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. "Well, the Bible says there is none that are righteous, no not one." That's what I meant by putting the "Word" in proper order. The Bible says that when you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you put on HIS righteousness. "Your life is hidden (immersed) in His." And when Creation looks at you they see Him. Then YOU become a JOINT HEIR with Christ. AND God reserves for you EVERYTHING HE RESERVES FOR HIS SON. People talk about mansions in Heaven, well, that's a good beginning. How about this: when you want to go somewhere you just have to think about it and you're there! Do you like "rock concerts"? Well, the music of the Heavenly Hosts make "rock concerts" seem kind of puny. They put out the most wonderful sound in all of Creation that you not only hear but feel. Do you like being in love? The love of God will hold you in unearthly Ecstasy. Are there things that you wished you could do but couldn't afford? Well, in Heaven you go do them, you can afford to do everything. How's that for a life? When I said that people who sit around and moan and complain that God is not fair are idiots... can you understand why I said that

now? NO ONE ON EARTH (including me) KNOWS WHAT WONDERFUL GIFTS GOD HAS IN STORE FOR HIS PEOPLE. Why would you want to be all caught up in that “dying and living” thing, when you can be caught up in the “I wonder what things God plans for me” thing. GOD TRULY LOVES YOU. There is no boundary to what He plans to give you... JUST BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU. And what do you have to do in return? (This is where people make mistakes, they say love Him in return, or follow His commandments...) the answer is NOTHING. IT IS ALL BY HIS GRACE. He already knows that you will learn to love Him. And who wouldn't? NO BODY LOVES YOU THE WAY HE LOVES YOU. It won't take you long to know that. WE WERE MADE TO RESPOND TO LOVE WITH LOVE. When God says “He would that none perish but all have everlasting life”, He means that's what He really wants for everybody. HE MADE THE WAY, you just have to follow it in to Him. How hard can that be? AND LIFE WITH GOD IS SWEET. Satan deceives people with his “sweet life”. Like everything else Satan does it's a perverted copy of the REAL SWEET LIFE THAT GOD OFFERS. And people sell their souls for what Satan offers. IF THEY HAD AN INKLING OF WHAT GOD PLANS they'd tell Satan to “kiss off”. SO THAT'S MY “TRUE” MESSAGE TO YOU... DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT. But even if you do... even if you do, God left you with the story of the “Prodigal Son” so that you wouldn't despair. Come home to God, and he'll put that golden ring on your finger, and kiss you on the neck, and say...”Once you were lost but now you are found. Welcome home son”. AND HE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS.