What About Homosexuals?
(Step Up and Be the Church!)

A Pastor's Perspective

Romans 1:26-27: **"For this reason, God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise were consumed with passions for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error."**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11: **"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, or drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."**

1. **Notice there are a _____ of _____ listed here**.

2. **Homosexuality IS _____.**

3. **Vs. 11 says "and such were some of _____."**

What was homosexuality like in the 1st Century Roman Empire?

- **They was much more _____ than even our current situation on America today**.

- **In Paul's world, Gentile men were _____**

- **Pederasty had no _____ overtones**

- **A Roman man was expected to desire sex with both males and females as long as he took the _____ role**.

- **In wasn't all this way**, however—There were mutual, consensual, devoted same sex relations as well.

- **Lev 18:22 and 20:13, in the Jewish world is crystal _____.**

- **Jewish people disagreed about a LOT of things—but despite their differences—_____ JEW who wrote on the subject 500 years _____ and 500 years _____ Christ agreed on one thing—same sex relations were _____ the will of God.**

- **But there is NO NT verse that _____ the same-sex commands like it does with dietary laws.**

- 1 Tim 1:8-11
- In 1 Cor 6:9-10

- Romans 1 is the _____ of Paul's view on homosexuality. 1:26-27

- *It's all _____ language here*.

- **Nowhere does Paul give the impression that the OT's teaching on the subject is somehow _____ ____ _____ in light of the gospel.**

- Paul didn't view homosexual behavior as any _____ than any other form of sexual misconduct.

- Which way is the **TRAJECTORY HERMENEUTIC** going?

CULTURE ----- BIBLE TEACHING---- IMPACT

Well, Roman Culture was VERY _____ to it. Paul was WAY more _____. So there is a trajectory, but instead of moving toward greater _____, it moves toward greater _____.

Preston Sprinkle Offers these arguments for the Non-Affirming Position:

The Bible talks a lot about marriage yet only _____ heterosexual marriages.

✚ Jesus highlights sexual _____ in marriage, even when he didn't have to (Mark 10)

✚ Lev 28:22 and 20:13 state in _____ terms that men should not have sex with other men.

✚ The _____ and _____ (500 BC-400 AD) engaged in various types of same-sex relations.

✚ The N.T. and Early Christianity grew out of Judaism and _____ much of Judaism's sexual ethics.

✚ While Jesus never mentioned same-sex relations, he displayed a rather _____ sexual ethic in other matters.

✚ Romans 1 _____ the well-known Jewish and Greco-Roman writers, who believed that same-se relations were "against nature."

✚ Paul's "malakos" (effeminate) in 1 Cor. 6:9 and "arsenokoites" condemns _____ types

✚ For _____ years Orthodox Christians have believed marriage is between a man and woman and that such sexual differences is necessary.

So, what are my conclusions on this hot button topic?

1. **The church has _____ it badly**.

2. **The fact that we have mishandled it doesn't mean we can _____ what God has said about it**.

3. **We must, instead, have an open, loving _____ with the world (and the church) instead of a _____ match at 10 paces**.

4. Again from O'Brien and Richards: **"We are to _____ our gay friends as we love our straight friends**.

5. **The scandal of the gospel isn't who it _____ but rather who it _____;**