

A CRIME AGAINST NATURE

Pastor's Bible Hour – June 22, 2008

Tabernacle of Praise – Pastor G. Richardson

1Co 6:9 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,

1Co 6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1Co 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mat 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy *against* the *Holy* Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

A CRIME AGAINST NATURE DESTORYS THE LIGHT AND LIFE OF A BEAUTIFUL CITY

A Wealthy and attractive family arrived at the city of their dreams. Its setting and surroundings were the most beautiful in the entire region, rivaling the lushness and prosperity of the famed entrance to Egypt.

The family received an enthusiastic welcome. The father was soon appointed as an official of the city, and his daughters caught the eyes of eligible young men in the community.

Everything seemed to be ideal except for one shocking condition. The beautiful city had become tolerant toward deviant forms of immorality. The citizens assumed that those who practiced this abhorrent “lifestyle” had a right to their own preference in the matter and deserved the privacy to carry it out.

The righteous father who was now a city elder, grieved over the “rights” that were demanded by and given to these man. He concluded that his influence was not enough to change the mind of the city; thus, all he could do was to live his own live and try to protect his own family

Neither he nor the citizens of that city realized the full extent of what was actually taking place until the turmoil of one night. The events of that night have been recorded and documented so that they could serve as a warning and reminder to the citizens and officials of every city in the world.

As we read this account, let us ponder the following questions: How widespread did the perversion in this city actually turn out to be? Why would such perversion spread so rapidly? What prompts this perversion to be so violent?

THE ACTUAL ACCOUNT

Gen 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing *them* rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

Gen 19:2 And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

Gen 19:3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

Gen 19:4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, *even* the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

Gen 19:5 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.

Gen 19:6 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him,

Gen 19:7 And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.

Gen 19:8 Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to

them as *is* good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

Gen 19:9 And they said, Stand back. And they said *again*, This one *fellow* came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, *even* Lot, and came near to break the door.

Gen 19:10 But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

Gen 19:11 And they smote the men that *were* at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

Gen 19:12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides a son-in-law, and thy sons, and thy daughters? and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring *them* out of this place:

Gen 19:13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

Gen 19:15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

Gen 19:16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

Gen 19:17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

Gen 19:18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord:

Gen 19:23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

Gen 19:24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

Gen 19:25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

SODOMY DEFINED IN CRIMINAL LAW?

1. Sodomy is the crime of unnatural copulation. From early times, sodomy had been referred to in statues and court cases as “the crime against nature” by a man with a man, or a woman with a woman. Which also covers bestiality. Or any unnatural manner of perversion.

HOW SODOMY IS DEFINED IN GOD’S LAW

Lev 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

Lev 18:23 Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion.

Lev 18:24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:

1. **Canaan, the grandson of Noah, was cursed by Noah for “uncovering Noah’s nakedness.”** Canaan’s descendants corrupted the land with sodomy.

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Rom 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Rom 1:23 And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Rom 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

Rom 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Rom 1:26 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:

Rom 1:27 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 recompense of their error which was meet.

Rom 1:28 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;

1. **The Amorites were an immoral people in Canaan upon whom God poured out Judgment:**

Jos 10:11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, *and* were in the going down to Beth-horon, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: *they were* more which died with hailstones than *they* whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

THE DANGER OF REDEFINING THE WORD SODOMY

1. We are constantly bombarded by the media with such misleading terms such as: Homosexuality; gays; gay rights; toleration; decimation; right to privacy and consenting adults.
2. Men's terms remove the moral implications of a sinful perversion and treat it as activity outside God's realm of control.
3. **Alexander Pope:** "Lust (sodomy) is a monster of such awful mien, That to be hated needs but to be seen, But seen too oft, familiar with face, We first endure then pity, then embrace."

SCRIPTURAL TERMS OF "HOMOSEXUALITY"

1. **Word Sodomy:** *qadesh*: The Hebrew term for sodomite literally means "**devoted to evil**" It refers to male prostitutes devoted to the worship of pagan fertility gods.

Deu 23:17 There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.

2. **King Asa and King Josiah both exercised their authority against the houses of the sodomites:** (1 Kings 15:11-12; 2 Kings 23:7).

2Ki 23:7 And he broke down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove.

**SERVAL IMPORTANT POINTS THAT MUST BE
UNDERSTOOD ABOUT SODOMITES FROM GENEESIS
19 ACCOUNT**

1. **The sodomites love darkness to carry on their “works of darkness.”** “But before they lay down...” (v. 4).
2. **Sodomy is not confined to adults:**”...Both old and young...” (v. 4).
3. **The craving of perverted gratification requires continual recruiting and assaulting, which soon affects everyone in the city** “....All the people from every quarter (v. 4).
4. **Sodomites despise authority:**.. “This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge...” (v. 9).
5. **Sodomites become violent with any who stand in their “with blindness...they wearied themselves to find the door”** (v. 11).
6. **Sodomites tend to associate with religious form:**... were by the house of the Lord...” (2 Kings 23:7).

WORD ABOMINATION
(to ebah)

1. The Hebrew word denotes something extremely disgusting, the practice of which provokes aversion; that which is abhorrent and to be regarded with horror. God’s Law defines sodomy as abomination.

Lev 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

Deu 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so *are* abomination unto the LORD thy God.

1. The spread of infectious diseases by the sodomites adds new understanding to why the Israelites were to destroy all the inhabitants of Canaan.

VILE AFFECTIONS

(atimia pathos)

1. **The Greek word for vile means:** “that which brings infamy, disgrace, dishonor, reproach, and shame.”
2. **The term vile affections is precisely chosen by God to identify, this perversion of sodomy.** “For this cause God gave them up to vile affections for even their women did change thenatural use into that which is against nature.”

BURNING WITH LUST

(orexis ekkaio)

1. **The word burning in the Greek means** “to inflame deeply, to set on fire, to consume, to burn vehemently, to be intense, fierce, to act impetuously with great force.”
2. **As a raging forest fire destroys whatever is in its path,** so the burning lusts of perversion devours more and more of that which belongs to others. “...men, leaving the natural use of the women, burning in their lust one toward another...” (Romans 1:27).

EFFEMINATE

(malakos)

1. The Greek word translated effeminate refers to a man who takes on the qualities, characteristics, or appearance of a woman; one who is not manly or masculine.

(1Co 6:9-10) Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? ...neither fornicators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate,.... shall inherit the kingdom of God.

DISHONORING THE BODY

(atimazo soma)

1. The Greek word for dishonor means “to treat with contempt as something vile or worthless, to abuse to treat roughly, to mistreat, to render infamous.”

Rom 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

2. Notice that the vile affections of sodomy are a by-product of rejecting God-given moral restraints which He has written to every person’s heart and conscience. (Romans 2:14-15).

REPROBATE

(adokimos nous)

1. The Greek word for reprobation identifies a mind that is void of moral judgment. It refers to those who have received strong delusions because of their own moral impurity and now believe the lie that man is the dictator of his own destiny.

Rom 1:28 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;