Christians and Homosexuality

We live in a world that is filled with sin. Man’s desire to “feel good” prompts us to do many things that are not righteous. We even look for ways to justify our behavior and tell ourselves that God says it is okay. The simple reality is that sin is never okay. That is why our Lord calls for us to repent, change, and do what is right.

 One sin that has gained the idea of “respectability” is homosexuality. In our nation we have officially accepted the idea that sexual orientation is just a matter of choice. We are believing now that God doesn’t care about who our sexual partner may be. Understand that is not and has never been true. It never will be true. We are not required to have romance and be married to a person of the opposite gender, but we are absolutely told in scripture that having romance and sex with or be married to a person of the same gender is a sin. We are plainly told that God is against this behavior and that it will result in condemnation if we don’t repent.

 The teaching that God calls homosexuality a sin is found in both the Old and the New Testament. We will just show the ones for the New Testament because the ones in the Old Testament were not only treated as spiritual laws but as criminal laws that allowed the government to execute those so behaving. In the New Testament, Christ seeks our repentance and judgement is reserved for the unrepentant at the return of Christ. Below are the Christian scriptures.

 Romans 1:26-32 – *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise, also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. NKJV*

 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. NKJV* This passage makes it plain that all sin, including homosexuality, is a choice. We don’t have to behave this way. **We can choose to abstain from such behavior**. The apostle writing this passage plainly says some of the Christians used to behave badly but have become clean and sanctified by Jesus and the Lord’s Spirit.

 1 Timothy 1:8-11 – *But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.* Crucial to the warning given in this verse is the opportunity also presented in verses 13-17. *Although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.* NKJV

 Jude 7 – *Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

 Christian teaching is clear. Homosexual behavior is a sin and just like ANY other sin, if we don’t repent and live in righteousness, we will be lost. Our hope is in Christ, who when we by faith in Him are made new in baptism into Christ, we have our past washed away and are given a new kind of love that is not gender specific. I Corinthians 13:4-8 – *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.*

 Please don’t believe the lie being taught in many churches that homosexual behavior is acceptable to God. Such churches may make you feel good and give you permission to sin, but the result will not be something you want for yourself. Paul the apostle warns that people are changing the truth of God into a lie. Romans 1:25. A true church of Jesus will be determined to love you regardless of your sin or past and will work with you to change what offends God and Christ. The goal is to help every person be a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

To repeat, becoming a Christian doesn’t mean I have to become someone who romantically loves a person of the opposite gender. It does mean that I change my love for someone of the same gender from romantic or erotic love to the love that

Christ has for us all. It is called AGAPE love. We have given its characteristics in the quote from I Corinthians 13:4-8. Love anyone this way and you will not be sinning. Please don’t let the lust and passion of your flesh take you down a path that makes you feel good in the flesh for a while but destroys your hope of eternal life in peace. You are loved and valued. We are not afraid of you. As a new creation in Christ, you would we welcomed and fit right in with those of us who used to be something else.