

HOMOSEXUALITY

TEXTS & HERMENEUTICS

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Notes for Texts & Hermeneutics



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Hermeneutics

I. Historic Christian (Biblical) View of Sexuality

- A. Scripture
- B. Reason/Science
- C. Experience

II. Revisionist View of Sexuality

- A. Experience
- B. Reason/Science
- C. Scripture

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“High View” Hermeneutics

I. Inspiration. Inerrancy. Authorial intent.

II. Exegesis (not eisegesis)

- A. Genre, word meanings, grammar, syntax

III. Context: literary, historical, canonical

A. Canonical context

- 1. Interpreting a verse or passage in light of the whole canon of Scripture, 66 books (not just in context)
- 2. Quotes, allusions (intertextuality, cross references)
- 3. Scripture affirms Scripture

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Old Testament Hermeneutics

I. What is the meaning?

II. Does it apply to us today?

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Texts

I. Genesis 19 - Sodom

A. Revisionist View

- 1. Sin of gang rape
- 2. Sin of inhospitality
 - a. Ezek 16:49 “arrogant, overfed and unconcerned”; Matt 10:14-15
 - b. “To know” means “to interrogate” not “to have sex”
יָדָעַ (yada') Gen 19:5

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Texts

I. Genesis 19 - Sodom

B. Traditional View

- 1. Gang rape and homosexuality
- 2. Inhospitality and homosexuality
 - a. Ezek 16:50 “They were haughty and did an abomination before me.” תוֹעֵבָה (to'evah) from Lev 18:22; 20:13
 - b. According to context, yada' can mean “to know sexually.” Lot's daughters didn't “know a man”

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Texts

II. Leviticus 18:22; 20:13

A. Revisionist View

- 1. Only refers to pagan temple male prostitutes
 - a. Gay sex is OK, but not in pagan temple.
- 2. Abomination = impurity (eagles, lobsters)
- 3. Holiness Code doesn't apply to us
 - a. Sex with menstruating woman (18:18; 20:18), mate diff animals (19:19), mixing seed/fabric (19:19), cutting side burns (19:27), tattoos (19:28)

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Texts

II. Leviticus 18:22; 20:13

B. Traditional View

- 1. Pagan temple male prostitutes = קְדֵשִׁים qedeshim
 - a. Inconsistent with context of Lev 18-20
- 2. To'evah refers to immorality (Pro 6:16-19)
 - a. Different word used (sheqetz) eagle, lobster
- 3. Penalty: unclean or death

וְאֶת-זָכָר לֹא תִשְׁכַּב מִשְׁכַּבֵּי אִשָּׁה תוֹעֵבָה הוּא

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Texts

III. David and Jonathan

A. Revisionist View

1. David and Jonathan were lovers
 - a. "love...more wonderful than that of women" 2 Sam 1:26
 - b. "Jonathan became one in spirit with David" 1 Sam 18:1
 - c. "Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David" 1 Sam 18:4
 - d. "They kissed each other and wept together" 1 Sam 20:41

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Texts

III. David and Jonathan

B. Traditional View

1. The love of two men doesn't have to be sexual
 - a. God's love is most wonderful. Does this mean it's sexual?
2. One in spirit/soul, not flesh (1 Sam 18:1)
3. Never mentioned they had sex
4. David's issue was women not men
David and Jonathan had wives

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Texts

IV. Slavery

A. Revisionist View

1. Bible condones slavery and is wrong. Bible's wrong on homosexuality as well.

B. Traditional View

1. Never condoned *modern* slavery
2. Modern slavery ≠ Ancient slavery
3. Bible is critical of slave trade
 - a. Exo 21:16

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Texts

V. Jesus' Testimony

A. Revisionist View

1. Jesus was silent about homosexuality

B. Traditional View

1. Silent about bestiality, incest, etc.
2. Homosexuality universally condemned
 - a. Jesus corrected misunderstandings (like Sabbath)
3. Jesus affirms biblical sexuality (Matt 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9)
4. Sexual purity, lust = adultery

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Texts

VI. Romans 1:26-27

A. Revisionist View ("unnatural" *para fusin*)

1. Acting opposite to one's orientation
2. Excessive sexual desire/lust

B. Traditional View

1. Clear allusions in Romans 1 to Genesis 1

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Paul's allusions to Genesis 1

"ever since the creation of the world" (Rom 1:20) - "the Creator" (Rom 1:25)

Romans 1:23, 26-27	Genesis 1:26-27
"human" ἄνθρωπος 1:23	"human" ἄνθρωπος 1:26
"image" εἰκὼν 1:23	"image" εἰκὼν 1:26
"resembling" ὁμοίωμα 1:23	"likeness" ὁμοίωσις 1:26
"birds" πετεινὸν 1:23	"birds" πετεινός 1:26
"animals" τετράπους 1:23	"livestock" κτήνος 1:26
"creeping things" ἔρπετόν 1:23	"creeping thing" ἔρπετόν 1:26
"men" ἄρσῃν 1:27	"male" ἄρσῃν 1:27
"women" θῆλυς 1:26	"female" θῆλυς 1:27

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Texts

VI. Romans 1:26-27

A. Revisionist View ("unnatural" *para fusin*)

1. Acting opposite to one's orientation
2. Excessive sexual desire/lust

B. Traditional View

1. Clear allusions in Romans 1 to Genesis 1
 - a. Male (*arsen*) and female (*thelys*)
 - b. Plato, Philo and Josephus used "unnatural"
2. God's created order in Genesis

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Texts

VII. 1 Cor 6:9-10, 1 Tim 1:9-10

A. Revisionist View

1. *Arsenokoitai* = sexual *and* economic exploitation (pedophilia)

B. Traditional View

1. *Arsenokoitai* is from Lev 20:13 (LXX)
 - a. Male (*arsēn*) + bed (*koite*)
 - b. Num 31:17-18, Judg 21:11-12
2. "Men who bed with males"

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Such were some of you; but you were washed,
but you were sanctified, but you were justified
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
and in the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11

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