

Jesus and the New Testament on Homosexuality

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It has been posited that Jesus never commented on homosexuality or condemned the lifestyle, therefore, advocates of same-sex relationships predicate that aversion to such lifestyles from a biblical viewpoint lack creditability and recourse is without merit. If Jesus was silent on the issue of homosexuality, what then should be the Christian response? Thankfully and with sufficient clarity, Jesus did speak on this issue, and His words are best recorded in the Gospel of Matthew 15:19-20.

*“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, **fornications**, thefts, false witness, and blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man.” (NKJV)*

*“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, **fornications**, thefts, false witness, and slanders. These are the things which defile the man.” (NASB)*

*“It’s from the heart that we vomit up evil arguments, murders, adulteries, **fornications**, thefts, lies, and cussing. That’s what pollutes.” (MSG)*

The words “homosexual” and “heterosexual” were created by German born writer Karl Kertbeny in a letter to Karl Ulrichs, May 6, 1868, arguing that governments should not interfere in private lives.

Fornication is a catch-all word for all sexual activity other than a biological man and a biological woman in a covenanted marriage, the original relationship explicitly determined by God in Genesis 2:24: *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh,”* and reaffirmed by Jesus in Matthew 19:5-6, *“For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they two shall be one flesh? Wherefore, they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”*

The word fornication is found twenty-six times in the New Testament, and each occurrence translates the Greek manuscript word: πορνεία (*porneia*, *por-ni'-ah*, G4202) referring to all sexual activity except that of one man and one woman in a covenanted marriage. Porneia is comprehensive, regardless of the sexual label that might have been created, such as adultery, incest, homosexuality, prostitution, sodomy, pedophilia, bestiality, or pornography, to name just a few. Jesus addressed all sexual misbehaviors and condemned them all.

Apostle Paul mentions this word in 1 Corinthians 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 ... shall inherit the kingdom of God.”* To paraphrase these words in a modern sense: *“Be under no illusion, **fornicators** will not be included in the eternal kingdom of God.”*

BIBLICAL SOURCE CITATIONS

(I) Porneia refers to any sexual sin; coupled with *moicheia* (G3430), adultery (Mar 7:21), and other sins (Rom 1:29). Used generally to refer to any sexual sin (1Co 6:13, 1Co 6:18; 1Co 7:2; 2Co 12:21; Gal 5:19; Eph 5:3; Col 3:5; 1Th 4:3; Rev 9:21). In Joh 8:41, "We be not born of fornication" means, "We are not spurious children, born of a concubine, but are the true descendants of Abraham" (a.t. [Sept.: Gen 38:24; Hos 1:2]). Specifically of adultery (Mat 5:32; Mat 19:9); of incest (1Co 5:1). *Porneia* (G4202) may also refer to marriages within the degrees prohibited by the Law of Moses and generally to all such intercourse as prohibited in that Law (cf. Lev. 18; Lev 20:10 ff.).

(II) Symbolically it stands for idolatry, the forsaking of the true God in order to worship idols. Since God is said to be married to His Church through Christ, then any idolatry is unfaithfulness toward God equal to sexual unfaithfulness to one’s marriage partner (Rev 2:21; Rev 14:8; Rev 17:2, Rev 17:4; Rev 18:3; Rev 19:2; Sept.: Jer 3:9; Eze 16:15, Eze 16:22; Eze 23:27; Hos 2:2; Hos 4:12).

(III) Fornication as a sexual vice was common before the time of Moses and was grossly prevalent in Egypt (Gen 39:7). Prostitution was not tolerated by the Sinaitic code, being an abomination in the sight of God (Lev 19:29; Deu 23:17-18). Its price could not be accepted in the sanctuary (Mic 1:7), and death by stoning was the penalty for an unmarried woman who had concealed her crime (Deu 22:20-21). The term “strange woman” in Pro 2:16 probably referred to a harlot procured from foreigners. See also Pro 2:16-19; Pro 5:3-6; Pro 7:5-27. God's displeasure was thus incited (Jer 5:7; Amo 2:7; Amo 7:17). Such excesses were very common among the heathen in the times of the Apostles (1Co 5:1, 1Co 5:9-10; 1Co 6:9). Israel is symbolically presented as a harlot (Isa 1:21; Jer 2:20; Ezek. 16; Hos 1:2; Hos 3:1).

Syn.: *akrasía* (G192), lack of self-restraint; *asōtía* (G810), profligacy; *hēdonē* (G2237), pleasure, hedonism; *asélgeia* (G766), intemperance, insatiable with regard to pleasure.

Ant.: *hagnótēs* (G54), purity; *hagneía* (G27), chastity; *katharótēs* (G2514), the state of being cleansed, clean; *egkráteia* (G1466), continence; *hagiótēs* (G41), holiness; *hagiōsúnē* (G42), sanctity.

STRONG BIBLICAL NUMBERING

JAMES STRONG (1822-1894) was an American academic, biblical scholar, lexicographer, theologian and Drew Theological Seminary professor of Exegetical Theology. Strong is best known for being the creator of Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible which catalogues 8,674 Hebrew words in the Old Testament and 5,624 Greek words in the New Testament. He spent thirty-five years detailing each word and prefixing the letter “H” for Hebrew words and the letter “G” for Greek words.

- G4202 πορνεία, porneia, (*por-ni'-ah*), illicit sexual activity
G4203 πορνεύω, porneuō, (*porn-yoo'-o*), to prostitute one's body
G4204 πόρνη, pornē, (*por'-nay*), a woman who sells her body for sexual purposes
G4205 πόρνος, pornos, (*por'-nos*), a man who sells his body for sexual purposes
H8605 Hebrew for PRAYER, (תפלה, *t'phillâh*, *tef-il-law'*)
G4335 Greek for PRAYER, (προσευχή, *proseuche*, *pros-yoo-khay'*)

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NEW TESTAMENT CITATIONS OF FORNICATION

The word fornication is found 26 times in the New Testament, and 39 times if you count variations such as fornications, fornicator, fornicators or fornicated.

(Matthew 5:32) “But I say to you that whoever shall put away his wife, except for the cause of fornication, causes her to commit adultery. And whoever shall marry her who is put away commits adultery.”

(Matthew 15:19) “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

(Matthew 19:9) “And I say to you, Whoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is put away commits adultery.”

(Mark 7:21) “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders.”

(John 8:41) “You do the deeds of your father. Then they said to Him, We are not born of fornication; we have one father, even God.”

(Acts 15:20) “But that we write to them that they should abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.”

(Acts 15:29) “That you abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication; from which, if you keep yourselves, you shall do well. Be prospered.”

(Acts 21:25) “And as to the nations who believe, we joined in writing, judging them to observe no such things, except only that they keep themselves from both idol sacrifice, and blood, and a thing strangled, and from fornication.”

(Romans 1:29) “Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; being full of envy, murder, quarrels, deceit, evil habits, becoming whisperers.”

(1 Corinthians 5:1) “On the whole it is reported that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not even named among the nations, so as one to have his father's wife.”

(1 Corinthians 5:9) “I wrote to you in the letter not to associate intimately with fornicators.”

(1 Corinthians 5:10) “Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then you must go out of the world.”

(1 Corinthians 5:11) “But now I have written to you not to associate intimately, if any man called a brother and is either a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one not to eat.”

(1 Corinthians 6:9) “Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor abusers, nor homosexuals.”

(1 Corinthians 6:13) “Meats for the belly and the belly for meats, but God shall destroy both it and them. But the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body.”

(1 Corinthians 6:18) “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits fornication sins against his own body.”

(1 Corinthians 7:2) “Because of fornications, let each have his own wife, and let each have her own husband.”

(1 Corinthians 10:8) “Nor let us commit fornication, as some of them fornicated, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.”

(2 Corinthians 12:21) “Lest in my coming again my God will humble me with you; and I shall mourn many who have already sinned, and not repenting over the uncleanness, and fornication, and lustfulness which they have practiced.”

(Galatians 5:19) “Now the works of the flesh are clearly revealed, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lustfulness.”

(Ephesians 5:3) “For let fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness not be once named among you, as becomes saints.”

(Ephesians 5:5) “For you know this, that no fornicator, or unclean person, or covetous one (who is an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”

(Colossians 3:5) “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness (which is idolatry).”

(1 Thessalonians 4:3) “For this is the will of God, your sanctification, for you to abstain from fornication.”

(1 Timothy 1:10) “For fornicators, for homosexuals, for slave-traders, for liars, for perjurers, and anything else that is contrary to sound doctrine.”

(Hebrews 12:16) “Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.”

(Hebrews 13:4) “Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

(Jude 1:7) “Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them, in like manner to these, committing fornication, and going away after other flesh, laid down an example before-times, undergoing vengeance of everlasting fire.”

(Revelation 2:14) “But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the teachings of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling-block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication.”

(Revelation 2:20) “But I have a few things against you because you allow that woman Jezebel to teach, she saying herself to be a prophetess, and to cause My servants to go astray, and to commit fornication, and to eat idol-sacrifices.”

(Revelation 2:21) “And I gave her time that she might repent of her fornication, and she did not repent.”

(Revelation 9:21) “And they did not repent of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.”

(Revelation 14:8) “And another angel followed, saying, The great city, Babylon, has fallen, has fallen; because of the wine of the anger of her fornication; she has made all nations to drink.”

(Revelation 17:2) “With whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and became drunk with the wine of her fornication, those inhabiting the earth.”

(Revelation 17:4) “And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet. And she was gilded with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.”

(Revelation 18:3) “Because of the wine of the anger of her fornication which all the nations have drunk. And the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her. And the merchants of the earth became rich from the power of her luxury.”

(Revelation 18:9) “And the kings of the earth who have committed fornication and lived in luxury with her will weep for her, and will wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning.”

(Revelation 19:2) “For true and righteous are His judgments. For He has judged the great harlot who defiled the earth with her fornication, and He has avenged the blood of His servants out of her hand.”

(Revelation 22:15) “But outside are the dogs, and the sorcerers, and the fornicators, and the murderers, and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and makes a lie.”