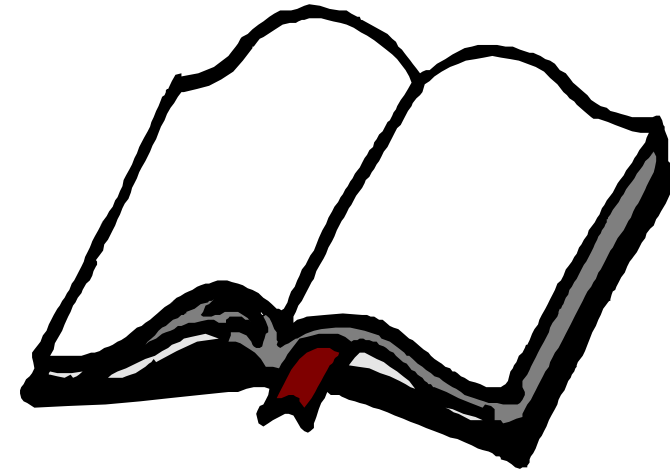


# Look in the Book!



The "Look in the Book" series was designed to be printed on legal sized paper (8 1/2" x 14"). For better clarity, it should be printed front to back and folded as a brochure, beginning with page 2 (lesson 1 front).



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# Is There A Problem?

Before a study on "Helping The Homosexual" can have any real value, it first must be established that there is a problem. In recent years, thousands have "come out of the closet" to proudly acknowledge their "alternative life-style". Numerous laws have been passed to promote and protect their sexual freedoms. In today's climate, to speak against the homosexual life-style is not only politically incorrect but in some cases even illegal. Because this movement is growing in popularity, shouldn't the church keep up with the times, relax its rules and embrace it as well? Is there a problem?

Many today view the Bible as an outdated standard of living that was designed to keep humanity from things that would bring them pleasure. Throughout the ages, God has repeatedly proven that just the opposite is actually the case.

An ancient command, given by God thousands of years before medical science discovered its value, involved separating the sick from the healthy. In Leviticus 13:46, God commanded that the sick be put in an area of isolation to keep their germs from spreading to the healthy. Undoubtedly, many did not understand the need for this command and probably mocked the practice as just another way for God to inflict hardship on humanity. Today, however, quarantine is commonly practiced in the medical field and God's law has been shown to bring good health and happiness, not hardship and misery.

Perhaps the greatest application from the numerous illustrations of God's timeless wisdom, is that even though we do not understand why God has forbidden some things, we can be certain that He has done it for our own good. Very likely, the ancient Jews did not completely understand all of the reasons for quarantine and other cleanliness laws.

Yet, when they obeyed His directives by faith, they were a healthier and happier people. When they disobeyed, disease and tragedy followed.

God has also given us specific laws to govern sexuality. Many today, like thousands of people in the past, are mocking these standards calling them "outdated", "obsolete" or "just another way for religion to ruin life's pleasures". They say, "It's your body. If it feels good, do it! Just be careful and practice safe sex." But did you know that some studies show nearly one-third of some condoms leak? (AFA Journal) Given the number of cureless sexually transmitted diseases in today's world, promiscuous sex might be considered suicidal. In spite of this, experts tell us that America still has the highest teenage pregnancy rate among all developed countries. Every year over one million teenage girls become pregnant. Most of these pregnancies occur not because they want to start a family, but because they are listening to the mockery being made of God's sexual standards. God does not give bad laws. He knows that sexual perversion promotes disease and emotional distress. Because of this, He commands His people to seek out one sexual partner (Genesis 2:24) and be committed to them both physically and emotionally for as long as they both shall live. Only God's version of "safe sex" is really safe sex.

However, God's laws do not just regulate heterosexual relationships, He has also given laws forbidding all forms of homosexuality. Out of faith in God's flawless record to always do what is best for His creation, we ought to accept this regulation even if we do not understand it. But, in all fairness, even understanding the reason for God's regulation against homosexuality is not that difficult. The purpose can easily be seen. God had a specific design when He created man and woman and He expects all humanity to respect that de-

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## Helping the Homosexual



Is there a problem?

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sign. Homosexuality is an obvious violation of this godly design and an unnatural use of God's creation.

In Romans 1:27, the Holy Spirit of God inspired the following words, "In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion." Here God clearly condemns homosexuality because it is unnatural. Consider the following common sense conclusions:

**1. Homosexuality is unnatural because, in order to experience intercourse, homosexual partners must use body parts in ways they were simply not designed to be used.** In many cases their practices are not only unnatural but also unhealthy, which obviously suggests they are going against design. One does not have to be an expert in anatomy to marvel at the way the male and female bodies were divinely designed to match one another. Homosexuality is like forcing a puzzle piece into a wrong slot. It was not designed to fit there and forcing it only creates more problems.

**2. Perhaps the most compelling evidence to suggest that this practice is unnatural is that homosexuality has no natural reproductive potential.** One of the earliest commands given by God was to "be fruitful and to increase in number". (Genesis 1:28) The homosexual relationship cannot in itself obey this command. Homosexuality defeats God's plan and sets His pattern for the family on its ear. As was said in the opening pages, God has from the beginning of time used the physical family to define the spiritual family. Homosexuality cripples that divine illustration.

**3. Homosexuality is unnatural because it is often the result of "extreme living".** Many engage in this practice because they have experienced all other perversions and are looking for one more "living on the edge" experience. Others have been submitted to an ex-

treme sexual abuse which created within them a spiritual sickness much like an addiction. We live in a world that is out of control. Our society seems to be involved in a constant search of the ultimate thrill. From bungee jumping to drug abuse, we continue to push the limits of moderation. God says to be self-controlled (II Peter 1:6) and to be moderate in all that we do. The world may call it "narrow-minded" or "outdated", but God's instructions have always been right in the past. In spite of the world's laughter, wisdom demands that we follow God's command to avoid "extreme living".

**4. Homosexuality is unnatural because it creates confusion for children who are brought into such settings.** If children from a single parent home have difficulty adjusting, how much more difficult it must be for children in a home with two mothers and no fathers or two fathers and no mothers. God designed the home to contain one mother and one father because each of the sexes has unique qualities to offer in a child's development. Despite the women's liberation movement, and other movements like it, men and women are still uniquely different and children still require the influence of both genders to develop properly. In homes absent of a mother or father, statistics are staggering to prove that childhood development is often much more difficult than in homes containing both a paternal and maternal influence. The opposite must also be true. In homes absent one gender, yet offering a double dose of the other gender, confusion among the children must be overwhelming. Because homosexuals are now beginning to "come out of the closet" in great numbers, the future will undoubtedly present an entire field of new psychological problems that must be treated.

**5. Homosexuality is unnatural because it almost always is accompanied by guilt.** The world will argue that these feelings of guilt come from the conservative standards of society and to some extent they are correct. But

these feelings also come from an inborn set of standards which help us determine what is natural. When we violate these standards, our conscience hurts. This sends a danger signal to our logic that something is wrong and a change is then expected. When change does not come and repeated violations of the conscience occurs, callousness results and the person loses moral feeling in that area. When this happens, the act seems natural to the calloused heart, even though in reality it is still an unnatural one. The moral wrongfulness has not changed, the person has simply lost their ability to feel that it is wrong.

Even if after reading all five of these common sense arguments, you still do not understand why God condemns homosexuality, you do know that God has proven Himself to be faithful in the past. Wisdom demands that you trust His judgment on this issue in spite of our lingering questions.

Although I do not believe in using sarcastic phrases to belittle those who have opposing views, the observation that "God made Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve" does merit some consideration. If the Bible has been misinterpreted and God does approve of homosexuality as so many claim, why did He place a man and a woman in the garden? Why are there no Bible heroes to show us the virtues of this life-style? If God approves of homosexuality, why did He not give us more information on how to make this type of relationship work to His glory? Scripture is filled with advice for heterosexual couples; Genesis 2, the Song of Solomon, I Corinthians 7, Ephesians 5, Colossians 3, etc. Why is God so silent about His support for the homosexual life-style? Homosexuality is wrong because it robs God of His greatest illustration of the spirit realm - the physical family. It is a perversion of His plan to educate us about the world to come. It runs counterproductive to His goals and it destroys the family unit both physically and spiritually. Homosexuality is wrong.

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Genesis 1:28; 2:24

1. Is it possible for the homosexual life-style to honor God's command to "Be fruitful and increase in number"?
2. In what way does the natural order bring God glory and the abuse of the natural order bring him dishonor?
3. In what way does the heterosexual relationship promote a unity that cannot be obtained in the homosexual relationship?
4. Has God ever endorsed homosexuality in scripture?

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# Social Consequences

The consequences that come from a life of homosexuality are many and far reaching. In I Corinthians 6:9 God explicitly records, "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders..." Obviously, one must conclude from this passage that homosexuality is punishable by separation from God's kingdom. Some very liberal churches have surrendered to social pressures and have accepted unrepentant homosexuals into their membership and even into their pulpits. But, whatever man may say, unrepentant homosexuals cannot be part of God's kingdom. His own words have forbidden it.

In the Old Testament, homosexuality is listed right along with incest and sex with animals. It was punishable by death. Today God does not command the death penalty, but no doubt He is still repulsed by this practice. (Romans 1:32) Clearly one can see, from these and other passages, that individuals who practice such sexual perversion cannot expect to be pleasing to God nor enter into His kingdom.

Contrary to the opinions of those who claim that homosexuality is a private personal choice of an "alternative life-style", the consequences and impact of such practices reach far beyond the individual. What does happen to a society that endorses homosexuality as an "alternative life-style"? What is God's judgment towards them? In Genesis 19, we find perhaps the most

famous story about homosexuality and God's swift punishment. Because of this and other perversions, God "rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah" wiping the cities and their sins off the face of the earth.

In Romans 1:18-32, we find the description of another society that left God and involved itself in homosexual perversions. Notice the unmistakable pattern and similarities between these people and the people of America today. (See the chart entitled "America's Social Collapse".)

This reference lists three steps that this society took on its way to social collapse:

**1. Verses 18-25** record that they refused to acknowledge God in spite of the obvious design that can be "clearly seen" (vs 20) through His creation. God, therefore, "gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts" (vs 24), because they "worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator." (vs 25)

**AMERICAN PARALLEL** - In the early 60's, America refused to acknowledge God as Creator despite the "clearly seen" (vs 20) evidence of His design. We then replaced the reading of the Bible in our schools with the study of evolution. In so doing, we "worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator." (vs 25)

**2. Verses 26-27** record that they engaged in "shameful lusts" and the women "exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with

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## Helping the *Homosexual*



Social Consequences

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women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion."

AMERICAN PARALLEL - During the 60's and 70's, America experienced a "sexual revolution" that rivals the perversion of Sodom and Gomorrah and the Dark Ages. Premarital sex and fornication were rampant and homosexuals began "coming out of the closet" to publicly display their exchange of "natural relations for unnatural ones". (vs 26)

**3. Verses 28-31** record that God "gave them over to a depraved mind". (vs 28) This depraved mind led them into "every kind of wickedness, evil, greed...envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice". (vs 29) They became "gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful" and they invented "ways of doing evil", disobeyed their parents and became "senseless, faithless, heartless, (and) ruthless". (vs 29-31) They were a society out of control.

AMERICAN PARALLEL - One need not be an avid news watcher to see the sad parallel between these words and the American society. These descriptions could easily be mistaken for today's newspaper headlines. With regularity, we hear of "depraved" individuals entering public buildings and opening fire on innocent victims, or we see news footage of bones being removed from the back yard of a serial killer. "Slander" has become a way of life for the publishers of "gossip" and "deceit"-filled tabloids that we find on every newsstand. "Greed" has a stranglehold on sports and everyday business dealings. Entertainment producers spend their

day trying to "invent (new) ways of doing evil" so they will have another shocking sequence with which to draw the public into their theaters. "God-haters" are growing in number and heinous crimes committed by Satan worshippers are reported every day. America is operating with a "depraved mind"!

Yes, the American society is spinning out of control towards certain disaster. And, at the center of this prophetic pas-



## Steps Toward Social Collapse

### 1. Romans 1:24-25

**They refused to acknowledge the Creator.**

"Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator..."

### 2. Romans 1:26-27

**They practiced sexual perversion.**

"Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion."

### 3. Romans 1:28-32

**They became a society out of control.**

"Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind.... They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless... those who do such things are worthy of death...."

*Yes, America is spinning out of control towards certain disaster. At the center of this prophetic scripture, is the sin of homosexuality. This explicit passage clearly shows that any society which embraces homosexuality as an "alternative life-style" is heading toward certain chaos and self-destruction. We cannot expect God to bless our economy, military, or any part of our future if we continue to travel the path taken by Sodom and Gomorrah.*

sage, and the devastating spiral in which America now finds itself, is the sin of homosexuality. Clearly one can see, from this explicit passage, that any society that embraces homosexuality as an "alternative life-style" is heading for certain chaos and destruction. We cannot expect God to bless our economy, military, or future if we continue on the path of Sodom and Gomorrah.

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Romans 1:24-32

1. In what way is homosexuality an unnatural relationship?
2. Being an unnatural act, homosexuality promotes abuse of one's body and therefore disease. In what ways does this abuse reach beyond a personal choice and impact others?
3. In what way is homosexuality a product of the chaos that comes from extreme living?
4. What is "the due penalty"? Vs 27

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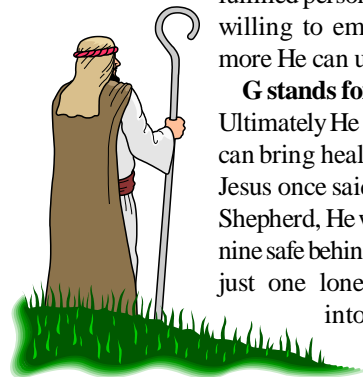
# Did you ever feel like an old rag?

The world has a way of stealing our peace and making us believe that we are not very special. It is the devil's greatest desire that you accept this lie and desert God as a result. The next time you feel like the world is stealing your peace, remember the acronym R.A.G. and the words below.

**R in this acronym stands for relief.** It reminds us that our hurt is very real to God and it is His greatest desire that we come to Him for relief. Jesus once said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick... I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:12-13) Sin convicts. It causes shame, isolation and cramps of the conscience. We cannot find peace by turning inward. Let God wrap you up in His arms of forgiveness. Only He can give lasting relief.

**A in the acronym stands for all.** By this letter, we are reminded of the words from Romans 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". Every member of the church has experienced a life of sin and, because of it, we are all worthy of eternal hell. Only by God's grace can we escape such a hopeless condition. You are not alone. Some may act as if they have found the state of perfection, but be assured they are worse off than those who humbly admit their sin. Lean on those who admit their weaknesses and never stop trying. It was only after much prayer that Paul realized, "...when I am weak, then I am strong." (II Corinthians 12:10) God cannot use a self-fulfilled person. The more we are willing to empty ourselves, the more He can use us.

**G stands for Good Shepherd.** Ultimately He is the only one who can bring healing to our wounds. Jesus once said that, as the Good Shepherd, He would leave ninety-nine safe behind if He could bring just one lonely lost sheep back into the fold.



When we sin, the guilt and remorse that sin creates can appear like a raging windstorm sucking all hope from our heart and all joy from our life. Shame, isolation and inner turmoil seem to be the only paths to travel. At times, life becomes so empty that we consider ending it all rather than continuing. Then faintly, out of the darkness, we hear the tender voice of the Shepherd. It grows louder as He approaches. We do not know whether to hide in shame or run for rescue. Frozen in our tracks, we see the Master's face appear through the haze. "There you are", says the gentle Shepherd in a loving voice. "Why would you ever think that you had to stay out here all alone? Come on, hop up here in My arms and I'll carry you home." The strong hands of the Master lift us into His arms and He hides us safe under His coat. *Peace at last.*

It can happen! Peace can be restored. The raging storms of guilt and shame need not be endured alone. Your hurt is real and only Christ can give you lasting relief. You are not alone. We have all experienced the loneliness of sin. Listen to the voice of the **Good Shepherd.**

**The Rag**

"The rag was all tattered, ragged and soiled,  
And everyone thought that its purpose was spoiled.  
It lay in the darkness, on the floor it was thrown,  
There was no one to hold it for it was alone.  
But then came the Master, so loving and good,  
He lifted the rag as none thought He would.  
He plunged it deep in the water of cleansing,  
Then lifted it out of the dirt He was rinsing.  
With the rag in His hand, He knelt before others.  
He washed all their feet for they were His brothers.  
At the end of this kindness He reminded each soul,  
"No one is worthless, to serve is our goal!"

*By Sonny & Cindy Childs*

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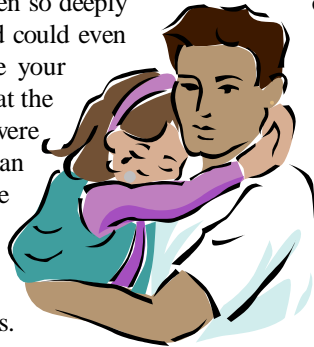
**Look**   
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# God Knows How You Feel

A fragile young girl, with curly brown hair, stood beside her mother's casket. With tears streaming down both cheeks, she looked up at the preacher and asked, "Does God cry?"

Have you ever hurt so badly or been so deeply discouraged that you wondered if God could even understand? Have you ever felt like your prayers were not getting through or that the words you whispered toward heaven were just lost in the wind? God knew that Satan would tempt you with thoughts like those. It was for that very reason that He sent part of Himself into the world to experience the full impact of the human experience. Notice these scriptures.



## Philippians 2:5-8

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!"

## Hebrews 2:17-18

"For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."

## Hebrews 4:15

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet without sin."

God knows what it is like to hurt.

Consider the following description of how Christ suffered during the crucifixion. As you read these words, ask yourself this question - Why did the all powerful God of heaven go through this horrible suffering at the hands of those He had created when a simple whisper from His lips could have ended all the pain?

Jesus suffered in many ways. Imagine having an angry, muscle-bound soldier tie your hands with a rope and then toss one end over a beam high above your head. Then imagine the strain as the rope is pulled tight, lifting your hands above your head, and finally pulling you off the ground just high enough so that your toes could barely touch. Can't you feel your muscles ache? Then, after stretching you out, the soldier walks over and picks up a whip. Not a bull-whip like we think of today. This whip has many long strands of leather with sharp pieces of rock or metal at the end of each strand. Panic runs through your mind. Slowly, the huge soldier lifts the whip over his head, and with one quick flip of the wrist, he lays the leather thongs across your outstretched back. For a brief moment it feels like the sting of a thousand needles. Then the razor-sharp rocks and metal sink deep into your back sending every muscle into convulsions. Before you have time to capture your breath, the soldier gives a mighty pull on the whip and the bits of rock and metal begin tearing at your flesh. You scream as the horrible pain shoots through every part of your body, but before you have time to recover, the whip slaps at your back again. Not just once or twice, but over and over again the whip slaps you. The rock and metal slice through your flesh only to be yanked out again leaving behind bloody ribbons of flesh. Can you even begin to imagine the horrible pain Jesus had to suffer to pay for our sins? You and I should have paid that awful price, but our big brother Jesus said "No," instead of allowing us to suffer.

But the whip was only the beginning of His physical suffering. Imagine how it hurt as they dropped the heavy cross on His tender back and as He drug it down the rough dirt road towards Calvary. Try to imagine the pain as it bounced up and down on Christ's bloody back. Then think of the horror as they reached the top of the hill and a Roman soldier shoved Him down across the beams, grabbed one arm and held it close to the wood while another soldier drove a metal spike through His hand. For a brief moment, He forgot about the sting from His back, because now every nerve was on fire with what seemed like the pain of a hot poker being driven through His hand. Then the rough soldier grabbed His other arm and held it against the beam. With one swing of the big hammer the horror was repeated. Then they moved to His feet and again the metal spike tore through flesh and sunk down deep into the wooden beam below.

For a brief moment, Jesus felt no new pain as He lay stretched out on the wooden cross. Then slowly, the earth began to sway beneath Him and the nails began to pull at His hands and feet. They were lifting the cross and dragging it toward a hole. Pain shot through every part of His body as they twisted and turned the cross trying to get it into the hole. Finally, the cross slid over one side of the pit and now the earth began swaying even more as they raised the cross high into the air. Then, with a "thud", the cross hit the bottom sending sharp pain through Jesus' arms and legs as the nails again tore at His flesh. The cross was in place and hours of intense suffering lay ahead.

Why did God allow this to happen? Why didn't He just whisper the word and end it all? He had the power. The same power that spoke the world into existence could have easily spoke it out again. Why did He endure such torture?

Remember the words of Hebrews 2:17-18, "For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted." God endured torture at the hands of the very people He had created because of love. He never wanted any of His children to ever say that He could not relate to the pain that they are experiencing. He loves you.

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Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:15

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be "tempted in every way, just as we are...?"
2. Did Jesus endure the temptation of homosexuality?
3. In your mind, what was the worst suffering Jesus had to endure to give us salvation?
4. What is meant by the phrase, "...that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest"?

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# Jesus Died For All Sinners!

In John 10:10 Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." In many other places He promises a future filled with the inexpressible joys of Heaven. God loves you very much! He wants you to have peace now and eternal joy with Him in Heaven.

This important lesson comes from a brief summary of the path that God has provided to bring you home. It is undoubtedly some of the most important material you will ever consider. It is important for all of us to understand that Homosexuality is not an unforgivable sin. In fact, Paul says in I Corinthians 6:9-11, "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor **homosexual offenders** nor thieves nor greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **And that is what some of you were.** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God." Some in the church at Corinth had been saved out of a life of homosexuality and you can be as well.

As you read the material contained in this lesson, please open your Bible to each of the passages so that you can see from God's word the message He has for your life. After each scripture, there are some very important questions to help you apply the message. Please be honest with yourself and with God's word. Circle the answers that the Bible gives, even if they are different from the way you have always believed. Remember, it is eternally important that you submit only to what God says. Our goodness and opinions are not enough. God can take away guilt and shame but, we must submit to His absolute authority.

## Romans 3:23

*"...for all have sinned  
and fall short of the glory of God..."*

**Yes No** Have you sinned?

## Romans 6:23

*"For the wages of sin is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

The word "death" in this passage means separation. Here it means separation from God.

**Yes No** Since we have all sinned, is it true that our payment ("wages") for sinning is separation from God eternally ("death" or hell)?

**Yes No** Since eternal life is a "gift", is there any way to earn it or work hard enough to deserve it?

**Yes No** Can anyone other than God give us this gift?

**Yes No** Is the gift found anywhere other than in Christ Jesus?

**Yes No** Is it important to be "in Christ Jesus"?

## Romans 5:8

*"But God demonstrates  
his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us."*

**Yes No** Since Christ died for us while we were still sinners, can we accept His forgiveness while still being sinners?

**Yes No** Some say, "I'll be saved as soon as I break a few of my sinful habits." Is that doing things backwards according to this verse?

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LITB002.3 - Did You Ever Feel Like An Old Rag?

LITB002.4 - Jesus Died For All Sinners!

LITB002.5 - Dealing With Temptation



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# Helping the Homosexual



Look   
in the Book!

Bible Studies by Sonny Childs  
(References are from the NIV unless otherwise indicated.)

### Romans 10:9

*“That if you confess with your mouth,  
‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart  
that God raised him from the dead,  
you will be saved.”*

The word “Lord” in this passage is far more than just a second name for Jesus. It is also His title or description. The word “Lord” means master, ruler or boss.

The word “believe” also has a far deeper meaning than just mental acknowledgment or confidence. Biblical belief has always been a combination of both confidence and obedience. (See James 2:14-26. Let the Bible interpret the Bible. Trust only scripture.) Yes, as this verse says, belief will save you, but only if it is true biblical belief that is full of obedience. Continue reading to discover what kind of obedience God requires.

**Yes No** Have you accepted Jesus as your personal Lord, master or boss?

**Yes No** Have you confessed this fact before men?

**Yes No** Do you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead?

**Yes No** Can you be justified by faith only? (See James 2:24)

**Yes No** Do demons believe? (See James 2:19)

**Yes No** Is faith without obedience useless? (See James 2:20, 26)

### Romans 2:4

*“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you towards repentance?”*

The word “repentance” refers to the act of turning ones life around, walking in a new direction or following after a new master.

**Yes No** Have you repented of your sins?

**Yes No** Are you trying to live a changed life?

Many are satisfied with just coming to God. Like the Prodigal Son, they ask only to stand at a distance like one of the father’s servants. But God wants and promises much more. He wants to give a party in our honor. He wants to bring us back into the family. It is not enough to just come back to God. He wants us to come inside!

In the paragraphs below, we will discover the doorway that leads us inside. Romans 6:23 says, “...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The word “in” is such a small word, but it means so very much. Eternal life is not found by just coming back to God. Eternal life is found by getting inside.

### Roman 6:3,4

*“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”*

In this passage, we are told that baptism is the door that leads “into Christ”. It is a very important step. We also find that baptism is a duplication of the greatest event in history - the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Every time a person is baptized, he/she duplicates the very steps that Jesus went through to save us from sin. Baptism is like an instant replay of the greatest victory of all time - Jesus’ defeat of Satan. Baptism is God’s favorite instant replay and He loves to see it over and over again.

**Yes No** Can you get “into Christ” without being baptized?

The word “baptism” in this passage means to immerse, surround or to cover over. We know this because that is the meaning of the word in the original language and, perhaps most obviously, because baptism is called a burial in verse four.

**Yes No** Is it really possible to bury a person in water if you only sprinkle or pour some water on their head?

**Yes No** According to verse four, does the “new life” come after the burial (baptism)?

**Yes No** Is baptism just an outward sign that you were saved at a time prior to baptism?

**Yes No** If baptism is the step that washes away your sins and gives you a “new life”, is it possible to be saved before you are baptized?

**Yes No** Have you been baptized (immersed in water) for the forgiveness of sins?

**Yes No** Are you willing to do things as God asks?

Baptism is not a popular concept among many in the religious world. Most choose to ignore it because it takes too much effort. It is easier to convince people to say the sinner’s prayer than it is to be immersed in water. For that reason, many preachers delete baptism from their sermons and only preach that which is convenient. God once warned of a time like this. He said, “...the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.” (II Timothy 4:3)

Are you looking for God’s message or are you looking for someone to say only what you want to hear? It is time for you to be honest with yourself and with God. Are you saved? Are you inside Christ? Review the following steps for yourself:

1. You must understand that “all have sinned”, including yourself, and that salvation can only be found in the free gift of God. (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8)

2. You must believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. (Romans 10:9, 10)

3. You must accept Jesus as your personal Lord and master, then confess that fact before men. (Romans 10:9, 10)

4. You must be willing to repent or turn your life around and follow after Christ. (Romans 2:4)

5. You must be willing to die to your own selfish desires, be buried in water like Jesus was buried in a tomb and raise out of the water to walk a “new life”. (Romans 6:3,4)

Have you done these things? There is no greater feeling than being saved inside the body of Christ.

God is! He loves you and He has provided you with a proud past, a purposeful present and a hopeful tomorrow. The only question that remains is will you acknowledge Him as your Father? You are not an accident! Believe in God!

I leave you with the same advice that was also given to Paul when he was confronted with the same decision that you are now facing.

*“And now what are you waiting for?  
Get up, be baptized and wash your sins  
away, calling on his name.”  
Acts 22:16*

If you are ready to meet your Savior in baptism but have no one to assist you, please call **1-800-973-2646**. We will help you contact a person in your area.

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# Dealing With Temptation

We have placed this lesson at the end of the series for several important reasons. In the first lesson we saw that unless one acknowledges homosexuality as a sin, there is no desire to look for solutions. In the second lesson, God revealed the social consequences connected with acceptance of this "unnatural" life-style. In the third lesson we noticed God's love for all people and how He can bring worth to those who are so broken by sin that they feel like a rag. And in the previous lesson we learned how God can remove the sin of homosexuality from ones life when they accept the forgiveness that comes through Christ.

This lesson, "Dealing With Temptation", has been placed at the conclusion of our series because no temptation can be fully overcome without the help of Jesus. Until one acknowledges the problem, is broken before God and then accepts His unconditional authority and love, they cannot find lasting peace and escape from the temptations of homosexuality. However, once you have entered into full submission to the will of God and accepted His free grace, then God has promised that "he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear." (I Corinthians 10:13)

The key to effectively dealing with the temptation of homosexuality can be found in the acronym **A.L.L.** God asks you to do A.L.L. that you can do. A is for **ask**, L is for **look** and L is for **leave**.

## A is for Ask

A little boy was given his first real money-making opportunity. A neighbor had offered him ten dollars to move a wood pile across the yard. Curious, and a little concerned, the boy's father repeatedly peeked out the side window to check on his son's progress.

Late that afternoon an exhausted, dirt covered seven-year-old collapsed on the living room floor. "Dad, I tried" said the boy with a tone of disappointment, "but I couldn't get it done. I'm sorry. I did everything I could." The father lifted the tired young man into his arms and said tenderly, "Son, you didn't do everything that you could." The boy looked puzzled and felt a little hurt because it seemed his father did not understand. "But Dad," he said, "what else could I have done? I worked all day! I'm dirty! I'm sweaty and I hurt all over!" The father wrapped the little boy in a tender hug. "Son, you could have asked me for help."

God wants and expects us to let Him help with this difficult problem. In I Corinthians 10:13 He gave us this wonderful promise, "...God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

Those struggling with the temptation of homosexuality should ask their loving heavenly Father to provide two things: First, strength to "stand up under it". In Philippians 2:13 Paul says, "...it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." God is the power that works within you. He will provide you with the power to act His way. Spend much time in prayer. It is your link to the power.

Secondly, ask God to run ahead of you and clear the path of temptation. In Matthew 6:13 Jesus told us to pray to the Father in this way, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." God does not tempt us with evil (James 1:13), but He does on occasion allow Satan to tempt us in order to build our faith. Ask God to build your faith but to protect you from any temptation that Satan might use to defeat you.

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# Helping the Homosexual



Dealing With Temptation

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## L is for Look

The second step to effectively dealing with the temptation of homosexuality is recognition. Christians must look for and avoid areas of temptation. In I Thessalonians 5:22 the Holy Spirit gives this warning, "Avoid every kind of evil." In James 4:7 we are told, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Those tempted by the sin of homosexuality should look for the places and atmospheres that present this temptation and avoid them. I Corinthians 15:33 tells us that "Bad company corrupts good character." People that present temptation should also be avoided. The apostle Peter said, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, stand firm in the faith..." (I Peter 5:8-9) The war for control of your soul is real. Recognize your weaknesses. Avoid people, places and things that tempt you with this sin.

A young lady wanted to go to a party that she knew would include activities that Christians should avoid. Nevertheless, one of the most popular guys at school was having the party and so she approached her father and pleaded for his permission. "Honey, I love you and I don't want you to get hurt" was her father's response. "But Dad," the girl persisted, "Don't you trust me? I'm a strong Christian and I know how to keep from getting burnt by bad situations!"

Seeing his daughter's determination, he led her over by the fireplace. "Sweetheart, I want you to reach down there and pick up one of the coals from the fire" said the father. "I'll show him!" the young girl thought to herself. She then reached down and selected a piece of coal that had rolled away from the fire and was no longer hot. With a proud look of arrogance on her face, she lifted the coal and then tossed it back into the fire. "See Dad, I know how to keep from getting burnt!" she boasted. There was a short pause and then the father

said, "Honey, look at your hand." She looked down. It was covered with black ash from the piece of coal she had selected. "Sweetheart," her father said in a loving tone, "a coal will either burn you or make you dirty, but either way you are effected."

To effectively overcome the temptation of homosexuality, Christians must learn to recognize areas that they must avoid. People, places and things will impact your life. Many of them will either burn you or make you dirty, but either way you will be effected.

Christians must also look for God's escape route. With every door that Satan closes to trap you in, God opens a window to let you out. In I Corinthians 10:13 we are given this wonderful promise, "...when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." Ask God to show you His windows. In James 1:1-8, we are told to pray for wisdom when confronted with "trials of many kinds". God has promised that "...he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear." (I Corinthians 10:13) Ask Him to give you wisdom to see the ways of escape that He has provided.

## L is for Leave

The final step to overcoming the temptation of homosexuality is using the escape route. Remember, it is not a sin to be tempted. Jesus was "tempted in every way, just as we are..." (Hebrews 4:15) Sin comes when we fail to use the God-given escape route and allow the temptation to lead to disobedience.

In the Old Testament, we have an example of two men who reacted differently when confronted with sin. Joseph was tempted sexually by his master's wife, but the scriptures say that he "ran" from the temptation. (Genesis 39:12) Although a brief time of discomfort followed his reaction, God remembered Joseph's dedication and He exalted him from a prisoner to a ruler over Egypt.

In II Samuel 11, we find the story of another man who also was confronted with sexual temptation. Unlike Joseph, King David refused to use God's escape route. He lusted over Bathsheba and called her to him. One sin led to another until his life was out of control. Guilt, cover-up, worry and shame ruled his life until he repented.

Like these two men, you can choose to deal with temptation by using God's escape route or by refusing His help. Going through God's exit is not always easy and it may not bring immediate reward, but God is faithful and, like Joseph, He will remember you. However, should you refuse to access God's way out, guilt, cover-up, worry and shame will surely dominate your life as it did David's.

The key to effectively dealing with the temptation of homosexuality can be found in the acronym A.L.L. God asks you to do A.L.L. that you can do. **Ask** for God's help. **Look** for His way of escape and learn to **leave** temptation behind.

In this study, we have been blessed to see God's help for the homosexual. Although He condemns homosexuality because it leads to terrible social consequences, God does love all sinners and He wants them to come into a relationship of peace. He sent part of Himself to die in order to offer us that life of peace and He will help us overcome temptation if we do A.L.L. that we can.

Are you submitting to God's absolute authority? Have you accepted the salvation that only comes through the blood of Jesus? Life is hard. Satan is working overtime to make sure that this is so. But God is faithful and He has promised not to leave you. He wants to be your Father. Hold His hand.

# Look in the Book!

*Friends that study together,  
spend eternity together!*

Read the scripture(s) and answer the questions below. Feel free to write your answers on another piece of paper and enclose it within this study guide.

I Corinthians 10:13

1. Read James 1:2-4. Why does God allow us to face trials and temptations?
2. Sometimes the greatest way of escape is to avoid the situation all together. Make a list of five situations you should avoid.
3. How many times do you pray each day? How does this relate to overcoming temptation?
4. Are you in Christ?

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