

## Did Jesus Say Something About Homosexuality?

by Dennis Abernathy

Recently, I have heard from two different sources that Jesus said nothing about homosexuality. One source was a newspaper article I read, and the other was from a panel discussion on the Fox News Channel. In discussing former presidential candidate Howard Dean's comments about Christianity and homosexuality, one contributor said: "One thing we know for certain; Jesus said absolutely nothing about homosexuality." The Metropolitan Community Church in its publication, *Homosexuality: What The Bible Does And Does Not Say*, said the following:

"It can further be said that the Bible does not record one word spoken by Jesus about homosexuality. Jesus did affirm what it means to be male and what it means to be female. He did deal with human sexuality in an open and non-threatened manner. And He did affirm on the one hand the goodness of marriage, but He also declared marriage (between male and female) is not for all (Mt 13:3-12)."

This is an example of trying to authorize a practice or behavior on the basis of what the Bible does not say. From this, many reach the false conclusion that Jesus approved of homosexuality. Is that true? Absolutely not! Jesus regarded homosexuality to be sinful behavior. How do we know? We know because He authorized marriage between a man and a woman (in harmony with God's law of marriage from the beginning, Gen.1:27-28; 2:2125; Mt. 19:4-6). This is the only relationship authorized by God for the benefit and pleasure of sexual relations.

Hebrews 13:4 says: "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." What marriage is honorable among all and what bed is undefiled? The marriage Jesus authorized, that was according to God's law from the beginning and was between one man and one woman. God nowhere authorized marriage between two men or between two women. God will judge fornicators and the term "fornication" describes "every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse" which includes adultery, incest, premarital infidelity, and homosexuality.

Therefore, what Jesus said in Matthew 19:1-12 necessarily excludes: polygamy, polyandry, bigamy, concubinage, adultery, premarital sex, extramarital sex, incest, prostitution, bestiality, bisexuality, and homosexuality. If not, why not? Thus, Jesus' teaching on the heterosexual nature of divinely sanctioned marriage, and His use of the word "fornication," shows that He clearly viewed homosexuality to be sin.

Also, all that the apostles of Christ taught carried the full weight of Christ's authority. Speaking of His apostles He said: "He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me. "(Lk. 10:16). This being true, what Paul said in Romans 1:26-27,29; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9-10, and Peter in 2 Peter 2:6-8, reflects the words and teaching of Jesus.

In conclusion, Jesus did not specifically say, "homosexuality is a sin" — in those exact words. But He did say that marriage approved of God involves a man and a woman eligible to be married. And He did say that sexual relations outside of that approved marriage is defiled, and homosexuality does not fit God's pattern for marriage; thus, His silence on homosexuality is as strong a condemnation of that sin as there is to be found in the Bible!