

Homosexuality

A book titled '*This Remarkable Gift - Being Gay and Catholic*' by Maurice Shinnick states homosexuality should be seen not as evil but as a 'gift' from God. Shinnick heads an organisation that supports Gay and Lesbian Roman Catholics. In 1992 he received an *Order of Australia* medal for his work.

The official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church on homosexuality is contained in the following sentence: '*Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is more or less strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic evil; and thus the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder*'. Shinnick believes this is too narrow and that the church should '*dialogue with the world...the church [and] with other Christians*'.

Shinnick writes that the turning point of the Gay and Lesbian movement came in 1969 in New York when police closed a Gay bar and a riot resulted from the clash between Drag Queens and the police.

Shinnick says that the attitude to homosexuality has in the past put people's lives at risk and accounted for a 30% factor in teenage suicides. The book documents testimonies of Homosexuals who have gone public with their beliefs. It is interesting to note that in many of these testimonies they '*knew it was not right*' or they experienced '*guilt*' about it. Yet guilt is the natural result of *sin*. The whole book attempts to take away that guilt of this particular sin by logic and by a shocking misuse of Scripture. He writes that the Biblical judgements on homosexuality are not relevant to todays society and also argues from psychology, quoting Freud, Jung, and other founders of psychology. However, Shinnick does accept that homosexuality is against the intentions of creation because '*the structure of the sex organs*' in human reproduction has '*a purpose not capable of being fulfilled homosexually*'.

If one speaks against homosexuality today one is likely to be branded '*unloving*' and '*divisive*'. Yet the spiritual and physical truths about homosexuality cry out for the soul of every Homosexual and Lesbian.

The Bible is *clear* - homosexuality and Lesbianism are severely condemned in the Old Testament as an '**abomination**' with the penalty of death, (Lev.18:22). In the New Testament it is called a '*vile affection*'; being '*against nature*'; '*unseemly*'; and '*error*', (Rom.1:26,27); and that this act of '*going after strange flesh*' will bring '*eternal fire*', (Jude 7). The Greek word for '*strange*' here means '*another of a different kind*' and refers to men with men or women with women. Another reference is 1Corinthians 6:9,10: '*..the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven...nor the effeminate, nor the abusers of themselves with mankind...*' The original Greek words here for '*effeminate*' and '*abusers*' specifically refer to Homosexuals and Lesbians. Yet the above is whitewashed by '*Christian*' Gay and Lesbian activists who plead and refer to *God's love*. Yes, God is a God of love but He calls all to repentance *before judgement*. There is a payday coming! God is also a God of wrath and a righteous and holy judge. Sin must be judged, either in the believer by grace through faith in the blood sacrifice and death of Christ; or at the Great White Throne judgement of unbelievers preceding the eternity of Hell!

The debate could well end here, but wait!...homosexuality not only destroys lives spiritually but also physically. The following statistics need to be read and heard!: '*The median*

age at death for married men is nearly twice that of Homosexuals: 75 compared with 39. Only 1% of Homosexuals live beyond retirement age of 65. The average age of death for married women is 79 compared with 45 for Lesbians. Homosexuals are 87 times more likely to commit suicide and 23 times more likely to die from heart attacks. Homosexuals account for nearly 90% of all AIDS cases. One who lives an exclusively homosexual lifestyle is 1,000 times more likely to contact AIDS than a heterosexual. Lethal health hazards such as 'fisting' and ingestion of faeces are common homosexual practices. Sadomasochism is practised by 37% of Homosexuals. More shocking and shameful statistics could be given, but these should be enough to condemn homosexuality from a purely humanistic/social perspective. Yes, they destroy lives - their own and multitudes of others!

*Secondly they destroy lives morally, and thus eternally, by leading others into their own destructive sin. The tiny 2% minority making up the Homosexual population consistently accounts for one third to one half of all sexual child abuse. A primary task of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) is the removal of all age-of consent laws. The most extensive study done to date of male sexual child abusers reveals that the average Homosexual victimises 7.5 times as many boys as the average Heterosexual did girls.**

Homosexuality is physically, mentally, and spiritually dangerous to society! Centuries ago the punishment for homosexual acts was death or life imprisonment! Times have changed! The 13/11/89 issue of *Time magazine* reported there may be some 10,000 homosexual Roman Catholic priests in the USA alone. In Australia it is believed the percentage is similar.

The tolerance of homosexuality in churches has steadily increased since the latter half of the 20th. Century: In 1984 the US Unitarian Universalist Fellowship became the first major denomination to acknowledge marriage between Homosexual couples. In 1987 the Episcopal (Anglican) diocese of Newark, New Jersey called for recognition of homosexual marriages. In 1988 the Uniting Church of Canada became the first denomination in Canada to authorise ordination of Homosexuals to ministry. In 1993 the World Council of Churches sponsored a conference where speakers promoted Lesbianism. One workshop was called '*Prophetic Voice of Lesbians In the Church*'. They claimed the biblical Mary and Martha were Lesbian lovers. One Presbyterian minister spoke of making love with her Lesbian partner. Over 100 Lesbians were given a standing ovation when they went on stage to publicly acknowledge they were Lesbians. In 1996 the 500 member Synod of the Uniting Church in South Australia rejected a proposal to put a moratorium on the appointment of Homosexuals to positions of leadership. Since then many ministers in the Uniting Church have admitted their homosexuality or lesbianism. Other churches are moving rapidly towards acceptance of Gay and Lesbians in ministry as '*normal*'.

Let us be the ones who will come out of the Sodom and Gomorrah church of our times. Jesus died and paid the price for our sins, including that of Homosexuality. Christ will not accept such sin and He calls all to repentance. To those who are convicted of sin and trust in Him and His righteousness alone, He promises freedom from the guilt now, and freedom from the eternal consequences of sin. **Terry Arnold**

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