

Theological Liberals on Homosexuality – 2

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It takes a great deal of creativity to dismiss the Bible's clear and consistent condemnation of homosexual behavior. Watch how it is done:

On Paul's condemnation of homosexuality in Rom 1:26-27, Jill Nelson, associate pastor of the Sunshine Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church in Ft. Lauderdale, FL (a pro-homosexual church), says, "If you take it in its total context, Paul didn't write it as a condemnation of homosexuality, but as a criticism of Greek behavior in temple worship ... You don't find Paul saying that all homosexuals are going to hell ... What did Paul mean by unnatural? Some authors say he means unnatural for that person. For homosexuals, homosexual sex was natural" (*The Birmingham News*, 7/6/97).

First, Ms. Nelson has no textual warrant for limiting the same-sex relations to idol worship. The passage says that as *a consequence* of the willful rejection of God and the embracing of idolatry "**God gave them up to vile passions**" (see context, Rom 1:21-25). There is no reference in the text to homosexuality in temple-worship, just as there is no reference to the "rape" element of homosexuality in Sodom. These are the additions of those who wish to dull the edge of Scripture.

Further, Paul did say that those "*who practice such things are worthy of death*" (Rom 1:32), and no *non-penitent* homosexuals would inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9-10), which is tantamount to saying they will go to hell. The Corinthians repented, changed, and thus were saved from death (1 Cor 6:11). Ironical, isn't it, that it is Ms. Nelson's theology, not Paul's, that will lead homosexuals to hell?

Instead, Ms. Nelson and other homosexual advocates affirm that "for homosexuals, homosexual sex was (and is - jj) natural." This bizarre twist only makes homosexual behavior wrong when a heterosexual person engages in it. This assertion grows out of the belief that one is a homosexual by genetics, and so long as two genetically programmed homosexuals engage in committed, loving sex then God approves.

Krister Stendahl comments on 1 Cor 6:9: "I don't deny that Paul is speaking about sexual eroticism. What he doesn't have is an understanding of a certain number of people being actually, by nature, homosexual. If somebody is so made, so created by God, then we have to understand and respect that ... We know many things people did not know at that time."

Well, if Paul could have only lived long enough to go to Harvard he would not have written 1 Cor 6:9. **Paul doesn't have an understanding?!** Who is kidding whom? These people are not dumb but dishonest; they have absolutely no belief in the divine inspiration (and thus the authority) of the Scriptures. Moses didn't write it; Paul didn't understand it; we're just not sure what it means; Jesus never mentioned homosexuality; "modern scholars say ..." and on and on it goes. Plead ignorance when it suits you; boast of your superior knowledge when pushed into a corner. God expects better than this.