



Such Were Some of You

1 Corinthians 6:9 and Various Scriptures

Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor

July 4, 2021

This morning we will look at three areas of sexual sin that are deviations from God's design for sex. The Bible speaks clearly about adultery, fornication, and homosexuality.

The foundation remains crucial and was affirmed by Jesus in Matthew 19:4-6: God created human beings in His image, giving value and dignity to all (Genesis 1:26). God differentiated them as male and female (Genesis 1:27). God commanded them to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:28). God established marriage; the male and female would be joined in a one-man, one-woman, one-flesh covenant relationship (Genesis 2:24).

Adultery – In Exodus 20:14, God forbids adultery, and in Matthew 19:9 Jesus acknowledged that adultery could break the bond of a marriage covenant.

Fornication – A broad category of sexual sin outside of marriage that is forbidden (1 Corinthians 6:9), regardless of cultural acceptance.

For the believer, the right response is to abstain from sexual sin (1 Thessalonians 4:3) and to flee from it (1 Corinthians 6:18).

The radical nature of New Testament teaching about sex: By God's design, sex is meant to be good for both a husband and a wife, and sacred because the believer's body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9, 1 Timothy 1:10, Leviticus 18:22, 20:23, Romans 1:26-27)

It is not a secondary issue on which Christians can agree to disagree, because matters of sin go to the heart of the gospel. Therefore, we must be careful to say what God's Word says.

Arsenokotai (one who beds males)

The word replicates the language of Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, where God is unambiguous about same-sex practice.

Malakoi (soft ones) – used to describe the so-called passive partner, and to tie this warning back to Leviticus 20:13, where both partners are warned.

The context of Romans 1:26-27 are the previous statements that look to creation (1:19-25) as a clear testimony to the existence and power of God. His design and order in creation are crucial to rightly acknowledge and worship Him.

Questions to Consider

1. The Bible uses words like abstain and flee when talking about the believer's relationship to sexual sin. Are there areas in your thought life or practice where you are not taking these commands seriously? What steps could you take to actively shun and move away from sexual temptation?
2. Why are matters of sin and repentance central to the gospel of Jesus Christ? Why can we not simply agree to disagree about the nature of sexual sin (Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)?
3. What is the connection between the word Paul used in 1 Corinthians 6:9 to describe same-sex practice and the commands in God's law in Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13?
4. Why is the emphasis on God's design and order in creation in Romans 1:19-25 important for helping us understand what verses 26 and 27 mean when they say that men and women "exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature"?
5. Romans 1 opens Paul's treatise on the gospel by teaching on the nature of sin and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 describe manifestations of sinful rebellion. But the story does not end there. The Bible teaches about the sinfulness of man so that it can do what?

For Further Reading:

Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With? (2020) by Sam Allberry

What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality? (2015) by Kevin DeYoung

For a very detailed treatment: *The Bible and Homosexual Practice* (2001) by Robert Gagnon
God Loves LGBTQ People More Than We Do, blogpost by Samuel Sey (slowtowrite.com)