

God's love is declared for the whole world in John 3:16. Neither LGBT people nor "Straights" are excluded from God's offer of eternal life in His Son, Jesus Christ. Of course, His love for all does not mean that He affirms lifestyles that are displeasing to Him and destructive to men and women. It would not be loving for a parent to allow a child to play with a poisonous snake or with a hot iron. Neither would God be loving if He withheld warning from those who put themselves in grave danger through lifestyles of which He does not approve.



Consider how God shows His love to LGBT's through the Creation, the Commands He has given and in the death of His Son on the Cross.

God's Creation

Everything that God made was very good, including the first man, Adam, and Eve, his wife (Genesis 1:27, 31). From the very beginning, God showed His love in designing human beings in such a way that they could produce offspring within the framework of loving, enjoyable, sexual relationships between a man and his wife. God had commanded this first couple to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:28), and this command could be happily obeyed because God had created perfect complementarity in the sexual anatomies of male and female. Neither Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders nor anyone else would even exist were it not for the heterosexual relationships which God designed.

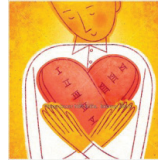


Jesus Himself acknowledged the Creator's design of pairing male and female as one flesh in lifelong monogamous marriage (Matthew 19:4-6). God in His love gave many instructions in the Bible about how to cultivate and maintain a joyful, marital relationship between a man and his wife. However, no such instructions can be found for homosexual unions, for they violated God's natural order of creation and were never intended to be a

part of human relationships.

God's Commands

Besides God's good creation of the heavens and the earth, the land and the water, male and female, He expressed His love by giving commands to humankind. God's laws testify of His holiness and were given to us in both positive and negative forms: ("Thou shalt, Thou shalt not..."). The Ten Commandments are the best known of God's laws in which we find such words as, "Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal" (Exodus 20:13-15). These laws were God's way of preserving the lives of all men and women, keeping families together through marital fidelity, and protecting the rights humans have to own and enjoy their own property. So, one of the reasons the Ten Commandments were given was because of God's love for all and His desire that they enjoy Him and the life He gave them on planet Earth.



In like manner, God lovingly sought the well-being of all when He forbade same-sex relationships in both the Old and New Testaments. Not only did God want men and women to maintain the natural sexual order that He had created, but He also wanted to spare them the sexually transmitted diseases and premature death which often comes upon both those who engage in same-sex intercourse and also upon innocent victims to whom these diseases can spread.

Regarding HIV/AIDS infection, it is commonly known that in the United States the main cause of infection for males is via homosexual sex. It has also been estimated that about two million people worldwide die each year because of AIDS with tens of millions more who are HIV infected. Most of these tragic deaths could have been avoided had the people exercised their sexual relationships within the boundaries which were designated by God.

So, it was a loving, protective measure from God when He said, "Thou shalt not lie with [have sex with] mankind as with womankind: it is abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). And, "If a man also lie with mankind as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them" (Leviticus 20:13). In other words, God imposed the death penalty in the Old Testament on men who engaged in sexual intercourse with other men. Neither did God want His good creative design to be violated, nor did He want the lives of His people to be cut short by sexually transmitted diseases.

Although several Old Testament laws were either modified or removed from the church in the New Testament, the laws against homosexual relationships were reiterated.

The Apostle Paul included those who practiced homosexual relationships (lesbians also) as **worthy of death** (Romans 1:26, 27, 32) along with others who maintained rebellion in various forms against their Creator (Romans 1:25-32). Paul also stated that the "effeminate" and "abusers of themselves with mankind" would be excluded from the Kingdom of God (I Corinthians 6:9,10).

"Effeminate," according to its historical usage, means "soft ones" or those men who attempt to erase their masculinity and assume the sexual role of a female or the passive homosexual partner. "Abusers of themselves with mankind" carries the basic meaning of "male bedders" or males who take other males to bed. They would be the active partners in homosexual intercourse. (meanings from: *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*, Robert Gagnon, p 306, Copyright 2001 by Abington Press).

Sex is a wonderful gift which God gave to humankind, but if an individual engages in sexual relationships, he or she must do so within the framework of God's law. Any innate desire for homosexual relationships must be resisted in the same way that a married man or woman must resist temptation to have sex with someone other than his or her own spouse. A married male with his female wife constitutes



the only relationship in which God approves intimate sexual activity. (Hebrews 13:3). **“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”**

The Cross of Jesus Christ.

The supreme declaration of God’s love for mankind, which includes Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgenders, is seen in the person and work of His Son, Jesus Christ. He came to seek and to save that which was lost and, therefore, did not withdraw Himself even from those who were involved in some type of sexual immorality. He received the public affection of a woman who was classified as a “sinner” (Luke 7:37), declared that her many sins were forgiven (Luke 7:47) and gave her peace (Luke 7:50). Jesus also intervened in the desperate plight of a sexually immoral woman who was to be stoned to death for her sin. He removed the sentence of condemnation and dismissed her with these words, **“Neither do I condemn thee, go, and sin no more”** (John 8:11).

It was possible for Jesus to forgive the sins of these two individuals and remove their condemnation because He Himself would be condemned as their substitute when He died on the cross. **“And the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all”** (Isaiah 53:6b). When Jesus shed his blood on the cross, He made it possible for any person to be forgiven of all sin and to be granted perfect righteousness **“through faith in his blood.”** (See Romans 3:25,26.)



Jesus’ saving work in the lives of those who were involved in sexual immorality would be seen in the discontinuance of their deviant lifestyles. He had stated, **“...go and sin no more”** (John 8:11).

The Apostle Paul included homosexuality within the list of various sinful activities that would bar its participants from the Kingdom of God (I Corinthians 6:9,10). He reminded the Christians in the church at Corinth that some of them had been involved in such

practices, but because of their faith in Christ, they had refrained. Paul stated, **“And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God”** (I Corinthians 6:11).

Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the grave for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders and for all people to be cleansed from their sin with His blood (I John 1:7). He would transform them into individuals who live in submission to God’s will and not according to their own desires.

Homosexuals who truly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and repent of their sins will transition out of their homosexual lifestyle towards sexual wholeness and will become new creatures in Christ. They will also be saved from eternal Hell and will receive the joyful promise of living with Christ forever in Heaven, from which they had previously been barred.

Think about it....

“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” (II Corinthians 5:15)



“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” (II Corinthians 5:17)

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. (I Thess. 4:17, 18)

Is there anything unloving about this?

J. L. N.

**God’s love
for Lesbians,
Gays,
Bisexuals and
Transgenders
is a true love.**