

Homosexuality is a sin that Jesus can deliver you from.

As idolatry is a sin, as drunkenness is a sin, and swearing is a sin, in the same way homosexuality is a sin. The good



thing is that when one is willing to change, willing to deny yourself, willing to obey the Gospel of Jesus, one can stop practicing homosexuality as some members of the church in Corinth did. *1Corinthians 6:9-11* says: **"9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men" 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."** *(The words *men who have sex with men* is the translation of two Greek words that refer to the passive and active participants in homosexual acts.)

How can I wash my sins away?

Once you have believed in Jesus as your Savior (*John 3:16*) and have confessed that you want Him to be Lord over your life (*Romans 10:9*), you need to really repent of your homosexual acts as well as the rest of your sins and wash them in water baptism. *Acts 22:16* says: **"And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name."** *Acts 2:38* says: **"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'."**

The verse that we just read says that when you are baptized, you also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who can help you to have self-control over your feelings. *2Timothy 1:7* says: **"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."** *Romans 8:13* says: **"For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live."** Also, in *Galatians 5:23* it states that one of the manifestations of the fruit of the Spirit is "self-control."

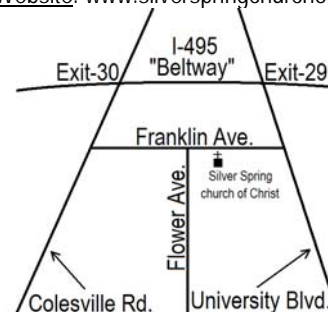
In a church of Christ in Mexico, a man began to attend the worship services dressed as a woman, but when he was convicted by the Holy Spirit and was baptized, he began to dress like a man and even married a lady in the church and started a beautiful family. Similar stories have happened in other places where homosexuals were told the truth: homosexuality is not a disease, nor is something natural, it is a sin that God abhors and which we must avoid practicing. If you want to give your life to Christ and meet with other people who encourage each other to move forward in the ways of the Lord, we invite you to congregare with us where you will always be welcome. ☺

Welcome to the church of Christ!

Address: 100 East Franklin Ave. Silver Spring. MD. 20901

Phone Number: (301) 585-8727

Schedule: Sundays 9:30am, 11:15am, 6:00pm & Wed. at 7:30pm. Website: www.silverspringchurchofchrist.org



What should I do if I feel I'm homosexual?

{Writer: Min. José Elmer Pacheco}



Today there are those who ask this question and do not know the right answer, because no one has told them yet. Ultimately they do what the rest of the homosexual community does, without seriously wondering if the answer they received from them was the correct one.

What would you do?

What would you do if you liked the opposite sex, that is, if you were heterosexual? If you did what the majority of heterosexuals do, you would have sexual relations with a consenting adult of the opposite gender without getting married; but is that the right answer? The heterosexual community says yes, but what does the Word of God say? *Revelation 21:8* says: **"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."**

What would you do if you and your spouse wanted to have an orgy with another consenting couple? If you did what the "swingers" do, you would go ahead and do it, but what does the Word of God say? *Galatians 5:21* says: "and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

What would you do if you were attracted to having sex with animals? If you followed the example of those who practice "bestiality", you would do it with any animal, but what does the Word of God say? *Leviticus 20:15* says: "If a man has sexual relations with an animal, he must be put to death, and you must kill the animal."

What would you do if you were attracted to the idea of making money by selling sex? If you heard the advice of the prostitutes, you would do it immediately, but what does the Word of God say? *Deuteronomy 23:17* says: "There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel (God's people), nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel."

What is a sodomite?

If you noticed, in the verse that we just read, it says that there should be no sodomite among God's people. At that time and today, a sodomite is someone who practices homosexuality. But just as the fornicators and the swingers and those who wish to mate with animals or sell their bodies, have no excuse before God to practice their feelings, the same goes for every person who wishes to practice homosexuality. If you want to do God's will, you must not have sex with the same gender. My question to you is: Do you want to do God's will or do you want to condemn yourself just because you don't want to quit satisfying your sinful desires?

Looking at some of the verses of *Romans 1:21-32*, let us concentrate on what it says about homosexuality: "²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools. ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones (lesbianism). ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another (homosexuality). Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion (STDs). ²⁸Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. ³²Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them." This passage is clear on one thing: When man does not want to listen to God, but ignores Him, then God lets him do what he pleases, but not without warning him first that he will receive the due penalty for his wickedness, as it happened to Sodom and Gomorrah in *Genesis 19*.



So, do I have to deny myself?



Unfortunately, our society says that the worse thing you can do is deny yourself, but Jesus says otherwise in *Luke*

9:23: "Then He (Jesus) said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.'" The liar must deny himself and stop lying, the thief must deny himself and stop stealing, the angry person must deny himself and stop getting angry, and in the same way, the homosexual must deny himself and quit satisfying his homosexual desires.

But, isn't that too big of a sacrifice?

Not when you really love God. *1John 5:3* says: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." But until you understand the great love that God has for you, you will never learn to reciprocate, because as *1John 4:19* says: "We love Him because He first loved us."

1John 4:9-10 says: "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love:



not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." Once we understand that Jesus was tortured and crucified to pay for our sins, then we will understand that as He denied himself to die for us, in the same way, we must deny ourselves to live for Christ.