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Homosexuality and Same-Sex “Marriages”

A Scriptural Perspective

Recently there has been renewed debate on the question of allowing same-sex marriages. The discussion has centered on various aspects including civil rights, genetic pre-disposition and religious perceptions. In this article, the issue is addressed primarily from a religious standpoint, i.e. whether same-sex marriages are acceptable in God’s eyes. Relevant to same-sex marriages is a discussion on the scriptural prohibition of homosexuality, and the unfortunate persecution of those openly gay.

Homosexuality

The traditional belief in Judaism, Christianity and Islam is that God forbids homosexuality, and therefore same-sex marriages as well. For example, in the Old Testament, Genesis 19, we see the story of

Sodom and Gomorrah, where Lot implores the people of his town not to act wickedly and to leave his male guests alone. The story goes on to describe the persistence of the townsfolk in wishing to indulge in homosexuality and the subsequent annihilation of the two communities. Other verses in the Old Testament also prohibit homosexuality, e.g. Leviticus 18:22, 20:13. In the New Testament, we see similar proscriptions in I Corinthians 6:9, I Timothy 1:8-10, Romans 1:26-27 (the translation used is the *New American Standard Bible*).

You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination. [Leviticus 18:22]

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived;

neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. [1 Corinthians 6:9-10]

For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. [Romans 1:26-27]

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Homosexuality

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In the Quran, we see reference to homosexuality in the story of Lot:

Lot said to his people, "You commit such an abomination; no one in the world has done it before! You practice sex with the men, instead of the women. Indeed, you are a transgressing people." His people responded by saying, "Evict them from your town. They are people who wish to be pure." [Quran 7:80-82]

Lot said to his people, "How could you commit such an abomination, publicly, while you see? You practice sex with the men, lustfully, instead of the women. Indeed, you are ignorant people." The only response from his people was their saying, "Banish Lot's family from your town; they are people who wish to be pure." [Quran 27:54-56]

While liberal interpretations suggest a contextual limitation on the prohibition of sexual activities between members of the same gender, the verses themselves are quite direct in their condemnation of the behavior. Some people argue that, "God created humans with a certain sexual preference, hence there cannot be sin in it; the verses therefore must be limited in their applicability."

Medical research on the genetic predisposition for homosexual behavior is far from conclusive. In any case, God prohibits it. Therefore, even if such a genetic link were found, the argument against it would be similar to that against consumption of alcohol or gambling. The latter two are associated with the make-up of one's genes, but that does not make them acceptable in God's eyes. In fact, much the same as homosexuality,

God terms intoxicants and gambling as abominations of the devil (Quran 5:90). As such, we must refrain from any behavior that God commands against. While we may be inclined to sin; the test is to remain steadfast.

Is one who recognizes that your Lord's revelations to you are the truth equal to one who is blind? Only those who possess intelligence will take heed. They are the ones who fulfill their pledge to GOD, and do not violate the covenant. They join what GOD has commanded to be joined, reverence their Lord, and fear the dreadful reckoning. They steadfastly persevere in seeking their Lord, observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), spend from our provisions to them secretly and publicly, and counter evil with good. These have deserved the best abode. [Quran 13:19-22]

You shall seek help through steadfastness and the Contact Prayers (Salat). This is difficult indeed, but not so for the reverent, who believe that they will meet their Lord; that to Him they ultimately return. [Quran 2:45-46]

Marriage

The advocates of same-sex marriages point out that the scriptures do not expressly prohibit a marriage between members of the same gender. In light of the prohibition of homosexuality, this argument does not have much utility. Also, for those who follow God's scriptures, marriage is a divine institution (Quran 30:20-21). The scriptural references to marriage always suggest a union of a man and a woman, e.g. Genesis 1:27-28; Mark 10:6-9, Quran 7:189, etc.

Among His proofs is that He created you from dust, then you became reproducing humans. Among His proofs is that He created for

you spouses from among yourselves, in order to have tranquility and contentment with each other, and He placed in your hearts love and care towards your spouses. In this, there are sufficient proofs for people who think. [Quran 30:20-21]

But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate. [Mark 10:6-9]

Proponents of same-sex marriages argue that this scriptural restriction deprives them of enjoying equal rights under the law. Married couples typically enjoy tax, medical, inheritance and other benefits which are denied to same-sex partners. The problem here is one of financial and procedural difficulties that same-sex marriage partners endure. These issues are relevant to human laws and are addressable by the law-making bodies. This also serves to highlight the fact that religious and civil unions are two separable entities.

God defines religious unions and lays down what constitutes a marriage in His eyes. Consequently, a woman and a man may fulfill the requirements specified in the scripture (e.g. mutual attraction and dowry—Quran 4:24) and be a married couple by God's rules, but may not necessarily be recognized as a couple by the state.

Sexual Preference & Persecution

An unfortunate repercussion of homosexuality is mistreatment by fanatics. Regardless of the view one has of same-sex marriages, there is no justification for persecution of those with homosexual leanings. *Cont'd on Page 3*

Homosexuality

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God gives human beings freedom of religion (Quran 2:256; 18:29). We cannot take that away from them. Instead, we can inform them of God's teachings and invite and debate in the best possible manner (Quran 16:125).

Proclaim: "This is the truth from your Lord," then whoever wills let him believe, and whoever wills let him disbelieve. We have prepared for the transgressors a fire that will completely surround them. When they scream for help, they will be given a liquid like concentrated acid that scalds the faces. What a miserable drink! What a miserable destiny!
[Quran 18:29]

You shall invite to the path of your Lord with wisdom and kind enlightenment, and debate with them in the best possible manner. Your Lord knows best who has strayed from His path, and He knows best who are the guided ones. [Quran 16:125]

Perhaps the question of social oppression is easier to understand in light of other prohibitions by God. Since homosexuality is referred to as an abomination (Leviticus 18:22, Quran 7:80-81), let us examine a few other sins termed as abominations.

O you who believe, intoxicants, and gambling, and the altars of idols, and the games of chance are abominations of the devil; you shall avoid them, that you may succeed. [Quran 5:90]

Of these, idol-worship is the most deadly sin, and the only unforgivable offence (Quran 4:48, 116) if maintained until death. Intoxicants, gambling and games of chance are also listed as abominations, as is eating food upon which the name of God is not mentioned (Quran 6:121). However, those who commit these sins are not persecuted by society. Instead their judgment is left to God.

To conclude, we observe that same-sex marriages and homosexuality are prohibited by God's religions. This is made clear in the Old Testament, New Testament and the Final Testament (Quran).

Faiz C.

Muslim and Homosexual!

There is conflicting evidence as to whether there is a human gene which predisposes a person to homosexuality. I believe there is, because of my own personal experience. I believe the gene is the same as genes that predispose people to certain addictions. Two people may drink the same amount of alcohol, yet one will become alcoholic and the other will simply be a heavy drinker. The heavy drinker, as things change in his life and he becomes older and more settled, will likely slow down his consumption, and may even stop altogether. The alcoholic will consume more and more, until the alcohol becomes the most important thing in his life. With help from an organization like AA, he may be able to stop drinking and turn his life around, but he will always be an alcoholic; the addiction will always be part of him.

I think the same thing exists with "sexual preference." Most of my fellow Muslims would probably disagree, but I say this because I believe that I have that predisposition.

So, does that mean I am a lesbian? Yes and no. I think that, had God not saved me, that's where I would be now—in a destructive, difficult, unhealthy lifestyle. But God did save me. He taught me right from wrong, weakness from strength. God condemns homosexuality. Not mildly, but strongly. He calls it an abomination [Editor's note: see Quran 7:80, 29:28, etc.].

So why would God incline certain people toward a lifestyle that's destructive and goes against His commands? It's a test. The same as the alcoholic or the drug addict or the compulsive gambler. All of those addictions are against God's commands, yet it's recognized that those addictions are part of a person's genetic makeup. The alcoholic can choose not to drink; the drug addict can choose not to snort cocaine; the gambler can choose not to bet. I can choose not to participate in the lesbian lifestyle. And I do choose that, because of God's mercy in showing me the right way. I thank Him every day that He showed me the Truth and gave me the strength to say, "Yes, I'm a homosexual, but I choose not to practice something that will hurt my soul."

God doesn't condemn homosexuals, anymore than He condemns alcoholics. He condemns the actions, and rewards those who fight and pass the test. It's turned out to be an easy test for me. I don't need sexual acts of any kind to make me a whole woman. I just need God. And I know that He is there for me.

Evah

[Ed.'s note: The story is taken from the book [Women's Rights, The Quran And Islam](#) by Lisa Spray (ISBN 0-9714813-3-4). This book can be ordered through ICS/Masjid Tucson. See our catalog at <http://www.masjiduntucson.org/catalog/index.html>

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The Heavens and the Earth is Adorned with GOD's Proofs

[2:164] *In the creation of the heavens and the earth, the alternation of night and day, the ships that roam the ocean for the benefit of the people, the water that GOD sends down from the sky to revive dead land and to spread in it all kinds of creatures, the manipulation of the winds, and the clouds that are placed between the sky and the earth, there are sufficient proofs for people who understand.*

[10:67] *He is the One who rendered the night for your rest, and rendered the day lighted. These are proofs for people who can hear.*

[12:105] *So many proofs in the heavens and the earth are given to them, but they pass by them, heedlessly!*

[13:4] *On earth, there are adjacent lots that produce orchards of grapes, crops, palm trees - dioecious and non-dioecious. Although they are irrigated with the same water, we prefer some of them over others in eating. These*

are solid proofs for people who understand.

[16:11] *With it, He grows for you crops, olives, date palms, grapes, and all kinds of fruits. This is (sufficient) proof for people who think.*

[16:12] *And He commits, in your service, the night and the day, as well as the sun and the moon. Also, the stars are committed by His command. These are (sufficient) proofs for people who understand.*

[16:13] *And (He created) for you on earth things of various colors. This is a (sufficient) proof for people who take heed.*

[16:65] *GOD sends down from the sky water to revive the land after it had died. This should be (sufficient) proof for people who hear.*

[16:67] *And from the fruits of date palms and grapes you produce intoxicants, as well as good provisions. This should be (sufficient) proof for people who understand.*

[16:69] *Then eat from all the fruits, following the design of your Lord, precisely. From their bellies comes a drink of different colors, wherein there is healing for the people. This should be (sufficient) proof for people who reflect.*

[16:79] *Do they not see the birds committed to fly in the atmosphere of the sky? None holds them up in*

the air except GOD. This should be (sufficient) proof for people who believe.

[25:62] *He is the One who designed the night and the day to alternate: a sufficient proof for those who wish to take heed, or to be appreciative.*

[27:86] *Have they not seen that we made the night for their rest, and the day lighted? These should be sufficient proofs for people who believe.*

[30:20] *Among His proofs is that He created you from dust, then you became reproducing humans.*

[30:21] *Among His proofs is that He created for you spouses from among yourselves, in order to have tranquility and contentment with each other, and He placed in your hearts love and care towards your spouses. In this, there are sufficient proofs for people who think.*

[40:13] *He is the One who continuously shows you His proofs, and sends down to you from the sky provisions. Only those who totally submit will be able to take heed.*

[45:13] *He committed in your service everything in the heavens and the earth; all from Him. These are proofs for people who reflect.*

These are a partial list of verses submitted by Mete K.