

100 Homosexuality – A real problem

The issue of homosexuality has gradually been creeping up on me. First, it was a lady in our homegroup at our previous church who told us she was going to get married. She was clearly very much in love but it can't have been easy for her, as a prominent member of the church.

More recently, through my work, I've met a lovely gay couple, let's call them Aaron and Brian, to add to, say, Carol and Denise. So let's talk about these four people and our attitude to them.

You see, for me it's no longer a theoretical discussion – it's a real problem. C & D are churchgoers and they have had to find a church in the town where they now live. And suppose I get chatting to A & B, and they show an interest in the Christian faith, what's going to happen? Suppose you see me and Sue in church with A & B of one side and C & D on the other; what's going through your mind?

Maybe your view is that the Bible teaches that gay sexual activity is sinful – a perversion, even. And maybe you think that our liberal society is sweeping aside God's standards.

And suppose you are also worried that society's current attitudes to sexuality are going to negatively impact our children. How does that affect your view of A, B, C & D?

It's been a journey for me; indeed, the journey is very much continuing. A few years ago, my theological views would have been those I've just expressed; now, I'm not so convinced that the biblical warrant is that strong, based on just four verses: Rom 1:26,27, 1 Cor 6:9, 1 Tim 1:10.

In any case, what is ***really*** important? What do Paul and others stress? What is ***really*** corrosive in our society? What would Paul rail against if he were alive today? How would he view gay sex within a loving, stable relationship? I don't know, but I'm pretty convinced that his stress would be on our attitudes to one another – that's what makes or breaks society. What's my biblical evidence for that? It's that Rom 1:26,27 is followed by Romans 2.

And that's another thing I've learnt strongly during my journey: if someone quotes one or two verses to support their view, check the context.

Happy New Year!

Paul Bev. 28.12.19

[Can I stop, please, now that I've reached 100?!]