

September 22, 2019

## Homosexual Conduct

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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## Services

### Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff,  
Roger Sholders

*Visitors are welcome*

*We offer Bible classes for all ages*

*We also offer in-home Bible studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Homosexual conduct is a “hot topic” in the time and place we live. Not only is the practice becoming increasingly common, but there is a strong push for *all* to *approve* of it.

As with any question of morality, God has the authority to determine what is right and what is wrong. The truth about morality is in His written Word (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**).

Instead of fitting our thinking to the world’s view of right and wrong, we must transform our thinking to fit God’s will (**Rom. 12:2**).

Understanding God’s will related to homosexual conduct begins by recognizing what He teaches about *gender*. When Jesus was asked a question about divorce in **Matthew 19**, He responded by referencing God’s original design of gender and marriage. Notice **verses 4-5**: ***[Jesus] answered, “Haven’t you read that He who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh?’***

God created exactly *two* genders. These genders are “**male and female**” (**Gen. 1:27**). God didn’t leave it to the man or the woman to decide what gender they’d like to be.

God created man and woman to be equal in *importance*. He did not create them to be *identical*. Instead, His design is for man and woman to perfectly *complement* one another.

This is connected to God’s design of marriage. God-approved marriage is between husband and wife. God never authorizes same-sex “marriages.”

# Homosexual Conduct

(Continued)

Given this truth, homosexual conduct is sex outside of *God-approved* marriage. It is therefore a form of fornication (see *Strong G4202 & Thayer*), and sinful (**Gal. 5:19-21**).

Several Bible passages refer *directly* to this type of sexual sin. The New Testament speaks of both women and men engaging in sexual acts with the same gender (**Rom. 1:26-27**). These verses leave no doubt that such behavior is condemned by God (also see **1 Tim. 1:10** and **Jude 7**).

Perhaps the strongest rebuke of homosexual conduct is seen in **1 Corinthians 6**. Notice **verses 9-10: *Or don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Don't be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor extortionists, will inherit God's kingdom.*** Homosexual conduct is here listed among unrighteous acts that lead to eternal punishment, if not forgiven by God. Following this, **verse 11** says, "***And such were some of you: but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.***"

The words "***such were***" indicate that some who were once guilty of homosexual conduct no longer were. While some claim that homosexual behavior cannot be turned away from, God says otherwise. Those in a same-sex "marriage" can (and must) leave that relationship to be right with God. Those

practicing homosexual conduct can (and must) stop the behavior to be right with God.

Perhaps the misunderstanding concerning homosexuals' ability to change stems from a failure to distinguish between *temptation* and *sin*. **Hebrews 4:15** shows a vital difference between the two. The **verse** says that Christ was *tempted* like we are, but He did not *sin*.

Some have stronger homosexual *temptations* than others, but this does not mean that some are forced to *yield* to temptation. God assures that no matter what temptation one faces, the "***way of escape***" is always available (**1 Cor. 10:13**). This is a comfort for those who want to please God.

While Christians must stand firm on these truths, we must avoid *hypocrisy*.

We must be consistent in identifying *all* sin as wrong. For instance, premarital sex should not be considered "less wrong" than homosexual acts. Both involve sex outside of God-approved marriage. Both are *sin*.

We must also guard against hypocrisy by watching our *attitudes* and *motives*. We must speak truth in *love* (**Eph. 4:15**), rather than speaking haughtily or to "win" an argument.

Fear of hypocrisy should not discourage us from standing firm on the truth, though.

We should not "water down" the truth, or be ashamed to proclaim it. God does not "take back" the truth simply because some attempt to discard it (**Jer. 36:20-32**).

May those guilty of homosexual conduct submit to God's terms of forgiveness (including repentance), and may we all view and respond to this sin as God desires.

## Area Gospel Meetings

### Elm Grove church of Christ:

Sep. 29 – Oct. 2 (with various speakers)  
Sun: 9:30; 3:30; M-W: 7:00 PM

### Benton Church of Christ:

Oct. 6 – 11 (with Ken Chapman)  
Sun: 9:30; 10:30; 6:00; M-F: 7:00 PM

### Mattoon South Side Church of Christ:

Oct. 14 – 20 (with L.A. Stauffer)  
M-Sat: 7:00 PM; Sun: 9:30; 10:30; 6:00

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## God’s Plan for Saving Man

God’s Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ’s Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit’s Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner’s Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner’s Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner’s Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner’s Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian’s Work	James 2:24
Christian’s Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian’s Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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## Words to Consider

**“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” – Proverbs 15:3**

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Betty P  
Mabel H  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Dody G  
Joe B  
Allen S (Cancer)  
Raymond & Maxine  
Randy & Kim S  
Mike & Family  
Ken & Chris F  
Brandon O’s Grandmother (Lung Cancer)

## Daily Bible Reading

Sep. 22 – Proverbs 27-29; 2 Corinthians 10  
Sep. 23 – Proverbs 30-31; 2 Cor. 11:1-15  
Sep. 24 – Ecclesiastes 1-3; 2 Cor. 11:16-33  
Sep. 25 – Ecclesiastes 4-6; 2 Corinthians 12  
Sep. 26 – Ecclesiastes 7-9; 2 Corinthians 13  
Sep. 27 – Ecclesiastes 10-12; Galatians 1  
Sep. 28 – Song of Solomon 1-3; Galatians 2

**“How sweet are your promises to my taste, more than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts, I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.” – Psalm 119:103-105**

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, September 22, 2019

Bible Study: Dave

Worship: Dan D

Evening: Travis

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Jim

### **Cleaning Building**

Misty

### **Prepare Communion**

Donna

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Sep. 28: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.**

*Study: Naomi's Advice (Ruth 3:1-7)*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, September 29, 2019

Reading: Steve

Announcements: Roger

Table: Travis

Serve: Mark

Darrell

Dan H

Mason

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Invitation:

### **Anniversaries**

October 6 – Travis & Jessica

October 11 – Mike & Paula

### **Birthdays**

September 24 – Maxwell

October 2 – Carlyle

October 4 – Norma