

“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 homosexuals, nor sodomites...”

— *1 Corinthians 6:9 (NKJV)*

1. Clarifying Terms in Scripture

In the above passage, the Apostle Paul lists behaviors that are inconsistent with the kingdom of God. Two terms of interest here are:

- “Homosexuals” (*malakoi* in Greek) – This term refers to those who take a passive role in same-sex acts, often translated as “effeminate” or “soft.”
- “Sodomites” (*arsenokoitai* in Greek) – Literally meaning “men who sleep with men,” this term refers to those who engage in same-sex intercourse, particularly in an active role.

Together, these words describe both participants in male-to-male sexual acts. This reflects a clear biblical stance that such behavior is sinful and contrary to God’s created order (see also Romans 1:26–27 and Leviticus 18:22).

2. Defining the Acts

- Sodomy (biblically speaking): This refers to sexual acts between men, particularly anal intercourse. It is named after the city of *Sodom*, which was judged by God for, among other things, rampant sexual perversion (Genesis 19:1-13). The sin of Sodom is confirmed in Jude 1:7 as involving “sexual immorality and going after strange flesh.”
- Anal Intercourse (heterosexual context): Though often less discussed, anal intercourse between a man and a woman is also considered by many theologians to be unnatural and dishonoring to the marital covenant. While not named explicitly in Scripture, it is implied in passages that speak of honoring the marriage bed (Hebrews 13:4) and pursuing purity in body (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). It is also viewed as a distortion of God’s design for sex, which was created for union and procreation (Genesis 1:28; 2:24).

3. Theological Reflection

God’s design for sexual intimacy is clearly outlined in Scripture: it is to be between one man and one woman within the covenant of marriage, expressing love, unity, and fruitfulness. Any deviation from this—whether homosexual or unnatural heterosexual acts—is a distortion of His intention and a spiritual danger (Romans 1:24-27).

It’s also important to understand that the biblical warnings are not meant to shame, but to lead to repentance. Paul himself goes

on to say in *1 Corinthians 6:11 (NKJV)*:

“And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

This shows that transformation is possible through Jesus Christ.

4. Pastoral Guidance

If you are married and your spouse pressures you into acts that violate your conscience or biblical values (such as anal intercourse), you are not obligated to comply. Mutual consent and honor are essential in marriage (1 Corinthians 7:3-5). If disagreement on such issues causes separation, Scripture allows for peace and even the freedom to remarry under specific conditions (1 Corinthians 7:15).

5. Final Exhortation

Sexual purity is not just about avoiding certain acts; it's about honoring God with your body, which is His temple (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). Whether single or married, let every believer pursue holiness and walk in obedience to God's Word.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”
— Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)

Maranatha – Come, Lord Jesus!

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