

# River of Life MCC Resources

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## Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ: Is homosexuality a sin?

If it is a sin, then I find myself in a very sinful community – but rather I find myself living in a community full of love, support, family and creativity. The Law says it is not a sin. My Bible does not tell me it is a sin. So I am not even sure why this question keeps coming up. I would much prefer to ask the question – Is cheating on your partner a sin? Is stealing from your company a sin? I believe that if it was as important as some make it, then Jesus would have reiterated the 10 commandments and said ‘God has decided we should have another one’ = 11. Thou shalt not be homosexual.

*Catherine*

In human terms, what is ‘normal’ is a personal expression of natural feeling. ‘Normal’ behaviour for one person would perhaps not be ‘normal’ for another. It is too easy to confuse sin with so-called ‘abnormality’.

In the Bible, particularly the Old Testament, the nation of Israel was frequently besieged by surrounding enemies. Large families were encouraged so as to increase the population and make the nation less vulnerable to attack. “Failure to produce” was almost like being a traitor and was often treated with contempt.

Christians normally agree that the words of Jesus are the most important and profound in all the scriptures, and outweigh the comments of others in Biblical History. As far as we know, Jesus made only one oblique reference to homosexuality when He said (Matthew, Chapter 12) “Some men are not meant to marry”. If only we could all be so low-key, pragmatic, and non-judgmental as Jesus was about this subject, and get on with life!!

*Brian*

Don't be ridiculous!!!! God created in God's own image – and said it was good!!!! This is one of those subjects which can be argued in so many ways – theologically, philosophically, socially, religiously, scripturally, etc,. If it comes down to normality – then to go against that which is ‘normal’ for us should be considered sinful. To go against the way that God created us to be, without embracing all that we are could be considered sinful. Therefore, for a homosexual person to be with someone of the opposite sex is simply not normal for them and goes against what they were created to be. Interesting though how people always base ‘normality’ on themselves isn't it. Normality can only be case sensitive as human beings are unique. There are lots of resources available around this subject. A particularly good read is on MCC Los Angeles' website. <http://www.mccla.org/worship.html> MCCLA's Progressive Christian Doctrine on Human Sexuality.

*Karen*

No, not as I see it. Jesus never mentioned anything bad about it (that was recorded) and it was common then. The Old Testament books are very specifically aimed at certain groups of people at particular times, and for various underlying reasons. As the books are translated over and over into today's language (when the books were written in their original language, there was no such word as homosexual!), there has to be mistranslations as each translator can only write from their current perspective. I read from several

translations, where possible, to help get a better perspective. Perhaps people that bible-bash homosexuals should check the facts and themselves thoroughly. Notice how some people can use a verse against someone without actually understanding what was really being said and why, and then completely miss the verses that apply to themselves! This has in the last few hundred years been an emotive subject. Perhaps instead of warring over which blend of Christianity is the right one, we should just try and be Christ-like! I have never believed that God would be upset by any relationship (even sexual) between faithful, responsible and loving partners in celebration of who they are before God!

*Neil*