

# Are homosexual marriages approved by God?

When the state of Massachusetts passed a law allowing marriages for homosexual partners, several other states hurried to try to pass laws to avoid recognizing those marriages as legal.

According to the U.S. Constitution, states are required to accept the laws of other states unless that state passes a law stating its public policy is not to recognize that law.

For that reason, states that don't already have a law on the books forbidding homosexual marriages are worried that homosexuals who marry in Massachusetts will move their way, forcing them to recognize those marriages. Kansas is one of the 38 states that has already passed such a law, but the Massachusetts law has stirred things up among religious leaders and conservative people, especially in states that have not passed a law.

What do the Bible's guidelines for marriage say about homosexuals? Is it for good reason that many are upset about the Massachusetts law?

Genesis chapter 2 tells us that as Adam was naming the animals and birds, there were male and female animals, but there was no one for Adam. But then God created a helper for him. Genesis 2:20-22 says, "The man gave names to all

cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man."

If God had wanted Adam's helper to be another man, he could have created another man. But as the saying goes, "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve."

In fact, Genesis 2:24 says, "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh."

Marriage was intended for a husband and a wife, not a husband and a husband or a wife and a wife. Is there any reason to believe this has changed?

The second half of Genesis chapter 18 tells us God decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of the wickedness in the cities. Verse 20 says, "The cry of complaint about Sodom and Gomorrah, yes, it is loud, and their sin, yes, it is heavy."



**sharon corcoran**

• use it or lose it

God goes on to tell Abraham he is sending "men," angels, to investigate whether the sins of the cities are as bad as he has heard. What were those sins?

Genesis 19: 1, 3-5 says, "Now the two angels arrived at Sodom by evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot caught sight of them, then he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the earth. . . . But he was very insistent with them, so that they turned aside to him and came into his house. Then he made a feast for them, and he baked unfermented cakes, and they went to eating. Before they could lie down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, from boy to old man, all the people in one mob. And they kept calling out to Lot and saying to him: 'Where are the men who

came in to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have intercourse with them.'"

The outcome is told in verse 24, which says that God made it rain fire and sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah. The people of the city, except for Lot and his family, were put to death by God for their sins, which clearly included homosexuality.

Is it reasonable to think that even though God felt so strongly about homosexuality at that time, He has changed His mind and thinks it is OK now? Does the Bible record anything more recent to indicate whether God would approve of homosexual marriages?

1 Corinthians 6: 9 says, "What! Do you not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom?"

Then verses 9 and 10 list some of the types of people who will not inherit God's kingdom. One of those listed is "men who lie with men."

When Paul wrote that letter to first century Christians, God still did not approve of homosexuality, and it is not reasonable to think his standards have changed. As a matter of fact,

the Bible describes God in several places as being like a rock, steady, and Hebrews 6:17 says his counsel is "unchangeable."

Some have argued that homosexuals are born that way and have no choice in the matter. Is that true? 1 Corinthians 6:11 says, "And yet that is what some of you were. But you have been washed clean, but you have been sanctified."

Some of the first century Christians had practiced the things listed in verses 9 and 10, including homosexuality, before they became Christians. Paul was aware that they had made changes in order to be "clean" in God's sight.

Clearly, God never has and does not now intend for marriage to be between partners of the same sex. Does that mean we should take action to oppose the Massachusetts law?

Romans 13:1 says, "Let every soul be in subjection to the superior authorities, for there is no authority except by God; the existing authorities stand placed in their relative positions by God."

The state of Massachusetts has the

authority to pass laws, including one approving of homosexual marriages. Christians would be overreaching their bounds by holding protests to try to get the law repealed or by causing any harm to those who take advantage of that law.

Jesus taught his followers to pray for God's kingdom to come, as is found in Matthew 6:9, 10. That kingdom will set matters straight regarding what God approves or doesn't approve of.

Micah 4:3 says of that time: "And he will certainly render judgment among many peoples, and set matters straight respecting mighty nations far away. And they will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears."

In the future, people who refuse to live by God's standards will be put to death like the people in Sodom and Gomorrah. Then there will be peaceful conditions on earth. Until then, Christians have to deal with God-dishonoring practices all around them because, for now, people are allowed to choose not to live according to God's laws.



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Morning Worship: 11 am  
Evening Worship: 6 pm  
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.

**First Baptist Church**  
Pastor: Bud Chester  
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Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am  
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Evening Worship: 6:30 pm  
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Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

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Sunday: Christian education/fellowship: 10:15 a.m.  
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Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

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