



DECONSTRUCTING THE **PAUL** GLOBBBER TEXTS



HOUSEKEEPING

- We respect each other
- Anything Tom & Catherine says is public
Anything else, especially participant names, is confidential
- Any questions of clarification: use the raise hand button
- We will have pauses for more questions



**BEFORE WE START
A DISCLAIMER**



THREE GLOBBER TEXTS

1. **Romans 1:25–27**
2. **1 Corinthians 6:9–11**
3. **1 Timothy 1:9–10**

PAUL & DESIRE

“It is well for a man not to touch a woman.” 2 But because of cases of sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife [...] 6 This I say by way of concession, not of command. 7 I wish that all were as I myself am. 8 To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is well for them to remain unmarried as I am. 9 But if they are not practicing self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.

This is the will of God [...] that each one of you know how to control your own *thing* [body? penis? wife?] in holiness and honour, not with the emotion of desire, like the Gentiles who do not know God.

What then should we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet, if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to desire if the law had not said, “You shall not desire.”

Rom 7:7 1 Thess 4:4–5 1 Cor 7:1–9



OUR QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

What does the text mean?

→ *What exactly is the text about?*

What is the context about?

→ *Why is Paul saying these things?*

How can we interpret this passage?

→ *Are Paul's reasons still valid for us?*



GLOBBER TEXT 5

7 In fact, to have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 But you yourselves wrong and defraud—and believers at that.

9 Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, sodomites, 10 thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, robbers—none of these will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And this is what some of you used to be. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

12 “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:7-12



TRANSLATIONS INCLUDE

NRSV male prostitutes, sodomites,

NIV men who have sex with men

KJV nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

ASV nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with men,

NKJV nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,


NET passive homosexual partners, practicing homosexuals,

CEB both participants in same-sex intercourse,

ESV men who practice homosexuality,

GNT homosexual perverts


NASB nor homosexuals,



THE WORDS — NOT THE USUAL WORDS FOR HOMOEROTICISM!

1. *Malakoi* (plural of *malakos*)

2. *Arsenokoitai* (plural of *arsenokoitēs*)



THE WORDS — NOT THE USUAL WORDS FOR HOMOEROTICISM!

1. *Malakoi* (plural of *malakos*)

Literally means ‘soft’ or ‘luxurious’ or ‘weak’.

2. *Arsenokoitai* (plural of *arsenokoitēs*)



THE WORDS – NOT THE USUAL WORDS FOR HOMOEROTICISM!

1. *Malakoi* (plural of *malakos*)

Literally means ‘soft’ or ‘luxurious’ or ‘weak’.

2. *Arsenokoitai* (plural of *arsenokoitēs*)

Made up word by Paul, based on Leviticus 18/20

arsenos (male) + koitēs (bed) = male-bedders



1 COR 5&6 – FORNICATION

5:1 It is actually reported that there is **fornication** among you...

5:9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral persons ... or greedy, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or robber. Do not even eat with such a one

6:1 do you dare to take each other to court before the unrighteous?!

6:7 ‘turn the other cheek’

6:9 Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? 10 types of wrongdoers

6:10 And this is what some of you used to be.

6:12 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial.

6:18 Shun **fornication**! ‘Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.



CLOBBER TEXT 5

7 In fact, to have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 But you yourselves wrong and defraud—and believers at that.

9 Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, softies, male-bedders, 10 thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, robbers—none of these will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And this is what some of you used to be. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

12 “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:7-12



THREE GLOBBER TEXTS

1. **Romans 1:25–27**
2. **1 Corinthians 6:9–11**
3. **1 Timothy 1:9–10**

16 **For** I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, “The one who is righteous will live by faith.” 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth.

19 **For** what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made.

So they are without excuse; 21 for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools; 23 and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.

A. 24 **Therefore** God gave them up in the **desires** of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonour of their bodies among them, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and

worshiped and served the creature *against* the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

B. 26 **For this reason** God gave them up to dishonourable **emotions**. Their females exchanged the natural [use?] for the *against* nature, 27 and in the same way also the males, giving up natural [use?] of females, were inflamed in their longing to one another. Males in males did shame and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

C. 28 **And since** they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to an unreliable **mind** and to things that should not be done. 29 They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, they are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, rebellious toward parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 They know God’s decree, that those who practice such things deserve to die—yet they not only do them but even applaud others who practice them.

2:1 Therefore you (sing.) have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, **are doing the very same things.**



CLOBBER TEXT 4

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonourable emotions. Their females exchanged the natural [use?] for the *against* nature, **27** and in the same way also the males, giving up natural [use?] of females, were inflamed in their longing to one another. Males in males did shame and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

ROMANS 1:26-27



CLOBBER TEXT 4

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonourable emotions. Their females exchanged the natural [use?] for the *against* nature, **27** and in the same way also the males, giving up natural [use?] of females, were inflamed in their longing to one another. Males in males did shame and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Does not **nature** itself teach you that if a man wears long hair, it is **dishonourable** to him, but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory?

(1 Corinthians 11:14–15)

ROMANS 1:26–27



CLOBBER TEXT 4

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonourable emotions. Their females exchanged the natural [use?] for the *against* nature, **27** and in the same way also the males, giving up natural [use?] of females, were inflamed in their longing to one another. Males in males did shame and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

ROMANS 1:26-27



WHAT IS NATURAL SEX?

1. Procreative PIV sex ('Jewish').

Paul is discussing anal/oral sex and birth control.



WHAT IS NATURAL SEX?

1. Procreative PIV sex ('Jewish').

Paul is discussing anal/oral sex and birth control.

2. Honourable sex with the correct partners ('Greco-Roman').

Paul is discussing sex with the wrong partners.



WHAT IS NATURAL SEX?

1. Procreative PIV sex ('Jewish').

Paul is discussing anal/oral sex and birth control.

2. Honourable sex with the correct partners ('Greco-Roman').

Paul is discussing sex with the wrong partners.

3. ~~Any heterosexual sex~~



OUR QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

What does the text mean?


→ *What exactly is the text about?*

What is the context about?

→ *Why is Paul saying these things?*

How can we interpret this passage?

→ *Are Paul's reasons still valid for us?*



WHY DOES PAUL MENTION SAME-SEX?

- 1. To reinforce the heterosexual ideal.**
- 2. As an easy example of commonly agreed upon bad behaviour.**
- 3. Because Paul has a negative view on sex and sexual attraction.**

PAUL & DESIRE

“It is well for a man not to touch a woman.” 2 But because of cases of sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife [...] 6 This I say by way of concession, not of command. 7 I wish that all were as I myself am. 8 To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is well for them to remain unmarried as I am. 9 But if they are not practicing self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.

This is the will of God [...] that each one of you know how to control your own *thing* [body? penis? wife?] in holiness and honour, not with the emotion of desire, like the Gentiles who do not know God.

What then should we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet, if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to desire if the law had not said, “You shall not desire.”

Rom 7:7 | 1 Thess 4:4–5 | 1 Cor 7:1–9



WHY DOES PAUL MENTION SAME-SEX?

- 1. To reinforce the heterosexual ideal.**
- 2. As an easy example of commonly agreed upon bad behaviour.**
- 3. Because Paul has a negative view on sex and sexual attraction.**



OUR QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

What does the text mean?

→ *What exactly is the text about?*

What is the context about?

→ *Why is Paul saying these things?*

How can we interpret this passage?

→ *Are Paul's reasons still valid for us?*



WHY PAUL'S REASONS DON'T WORK FOR US

1. We have not adopted most of Paul's sexual theology.
- 2.



WHY PAUL'S REASONS DON'T WORK FOR US

1. We have not adopted most of Paul's sexual theology.
2. Paul sees same-sex as turning away from natural intercourse, this is untrue.



WHY PAUL'S REASONS DON'T WORK FOR US

1. We have not adopted most of Paul's sexual theology.
2. Paul sees same-sex as turning away from natural intercourse, this is untrue.
3. Paul does not understand that LGBTQ+ is an *identity* and not (solely) an activity.



WHY PAUL'S REASONS DON'T WORK FOR US

1. We have not adopted most of Paul's sexual theology.
2. Paul sees same-sex as turning away from natural intercourse, this is untrue.
3. Paul does not understand that LGBTQ+ is an *identity* and not (solely) an activity.
4. Paul's mentions of same sex are part of rhetorical strategy, meant to discredit other groups not theological discussion.



PAUL IS PRO-LGBT+

27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:27–29.



POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. Homosexuality is not mentioned, only homoerotic activity.
2. In Romans God makes men desire men.
3. Lesbians are not mentioned.
4. If Paul is against same-sex, he is also against certain types of hetero-sex.
5. Paul mentions these things as generic examples.
6. Paul's examples depend on his understanding of 'natural', biology, science and worldview have changed since then.
7. Paul says gender does not exist in Christ.



FEEDBACK is.gd/paulfeedback

SLIDES is.gd/lgbtpaulslides

NEXT TIME January 21, is.gd/clobbertexts