

The Gay
Gospel
by
Thomas
Straub

Table of Contents

Preface.....	page i
Sodom, Sodomites, Sodomy, and such!.....	page 1
Who's lying with who?.....	page 4
"That which is against nature".....	page 5
Femmes and Abusers.....	page 6
Peter's Counsel.....	page 7
They made a covenant.....	page 7
Daniel in the Eunuch's den.....	page 8
Jesus heals a sex slave?.....	page 8
The heart of John.....	page 9
Epilogue.....	page 9

Preface

In the face of America's crisis of right wing totalitarianism and endless pursuit for control and to enforce their dogmas and so-called justice. The religious right persecute the very One for whom they claim they serve. For "they think they do God service." I intend to do a study of gay culture in the Bible. Something the religious right vehemently denies. I pray this book will give comfort to gays who have been turned away or off by zealous bigots who are as ignorant as they are devoted to spreading a discriminatory Gospel. I also hope it will help those who are Christians to be reassured they are not alone and that the Bible is not hate literature and is all relevant. "God is not a man that He should lie," but He sure is misinterpreted. I hope that taboos may be broken, controversies may be quelled, and Truth be triumphant. Whether you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersexual, heterosexual, or even asexual, I hope this booklet will educate and enlighten your mind and open a new chapter of understanding in your life.

**Sincerely,
Thomas Straub**

Sodom, Sodomites, Sodomy, and such!

Sodom and Gomorrah have been the scapegoat for homosexuality for many many years, but were the people of those towns gay. Let's find out for ourselves. The Bible gives it's account in Genesis as such: "Genesis 18:16 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

18:17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

18:18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

18:20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

18:21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

18:22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

18:23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

18:24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

18:25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

18:26 And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

18:27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the LORD, which am but dust and ashes:

18:28 Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.

18:29 And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake.

18:30 And he said unto him, Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there.

18:31 And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the LORD: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.

18:32 And he said, Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

18:33 And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

19:2 And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

19:3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

19:4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

19:5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

19:6 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him,

19:7 And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.

19:8 Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

19:9 And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door.

19:10 But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

19:11 And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

19:12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in

law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place:

19:13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

19:14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

19:15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

19:16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

19:17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

19:18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my LORD:

19:19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

19:20 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

19:21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

19:22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

19:23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

19:24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

19:25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

19:26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

19:27 And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD:

19:28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

19:29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain,

page 3

that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

Now it seems to me the wickedness was more about rape than homosexuality. The religious right has worked tirelessly to slander gays. Gays have been accused of all kinds of things from pedophilia to bestiality. Albeit some have done these debase things, but it is profiling or stereotyping to say all do such. These "sexual sins" are only mentioned one other place in the Bible. That is in Jude: "Jude 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." This text is very interesting because it gives us a clue as to their orientation. How you may ask. The word "strange" in strange flesh is translated from the greek "heteros" from which the word heterosexual comes. I will talk more on this later, but what I gather from the various Bible texts God does not want us going against our nature. If we are heterosexual we should be faithful to what we are. If we are gay likewise, so on and so forth. Sodom and Gomorrha were going after heterosexuals, and most likely trying or succeeding to rape them.

The actual sins comitted are found in Ezekiel: "Ezekiel 16:49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

16:50 And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good."

As to what abomination the Bible is not clear, but many things can be considered abominations, especially idolatry. Now the Bible also mentions "Sodomites". The hebrew word is "qadesh" which is a male prostitute, usually for idolatry. Now as Christians we should see nothing wrong with these restrictions. They are the same ones put on heterosexuals. As for Sodomy it is not found in the Bible. It is a theological invention by St. Peter Damian who first used it in 1050. "So-called" christianity has used all kinds of measures to control and manipulate the people.

Who's lying with who?

Next we come to what I'd like to call the lying passages in Leviticus. Perhaps the most seemingly cruel. The first passage we come to is: "Leviticus 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination." Yikes! OK, let's look at this. The key phrase is as with womankind. The text seems to assume you have

been with a woman. Let's rephrase that so that I can understand it and hopefully you as well. "You should not have sex with a man as if he were a woman." In other words just because your wife or girlfriends away doesn't mean you should switch sexes or have an orgy, which is spoken against elsewhere. At

page 4

least that is how I see it. A lot of gay Christians just say oh its the holiness code it's no longer applicable. I disagree. If it is no longer applicable than bestiality is ok and incest and rape, etc. As for the abomination in this passage it means "confusion" from the hebrew "tebel".

The following text gives a penalty for this transgression: "Leviticus 20:13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." This penalty seems a bit high, but "God's ways are not our ways" When Jesus came he took the penalty for all transgressions, "Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

The abomination in this text is translated from the hebrew "tow'ebah" which means something disgusting especially idolatry.

"That which is against nature"

We now enter the new testament. Paul is addressing the church in Rome. He gives a little history lesson about idolatrous people: "Romans 1:14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

1:15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,
1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

page 5

1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

1:31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

These Scriptures deal with two definite sexual sins, fornication and lust. No one can convince me that these verses describe anything but heathen idolatry. The religious right would like everyone to believe all gays do is lust and fornicate and spread disease and just live all immoral lives. They can show all the polls they want, all the studies, but they cannot discredit the impact gays have made and the contributions they have given to this world.

Femmes and Abusers

After Romans Paul addresses the corinthians: "1 Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither

fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind," The first word we come to that many use to condemn gays is effeminate, which is just the translators opinion of the greek "malakos" which means "soft" It's true meaning is no longer known, so it is left to speculation, but figuratively it is a "catamite" derived from the latin or the greek "ganymede" which came to mean a youthful or boyish lover of a man, but some people believe it means to be passive in the faith, I choose to believe the latter.

page 6

Abusers of themselves with mankind is translated from the greek "arsenokoites" which means sodomite or which I established earlier a male prostitute usually dedicated to idolatry.

Peter's Counsel

Peter is now involved in the controversy. Listen to his counsel: "1 Timothy 1:9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 1:10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;" "them that defile themselves" are again sodomites or male prostitutes.

Peter himself was very comfortable with male bonding and his body. As we note in the following line: "John 21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea." I have heard naked only meant shirtless but what the fuss if that was the case. God only knows what he was doing naked but he didn't mind the disciples seeing him, but wanted to be modest for his Lord.

They made a covenant

David and Jonathon is perhaps the most obvious homosexual relationship and the least talked about as it was. Their bond was greater than life itself. They had all the elements of marriage and all the romance and dedication to make it last. Perhaps it is the second greatest love story, second only to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for us. No Christian should be ashamed to accept the truth about their love. It was God given and there was nothing wrong with it. It was pure, true, and the model for any gay relationship.

If every gay couple was so dedicated the religious right would be quite puzzled. They would still find fault but God is our judge not the world.

The story begins when they meet: "1 Samuel 18:1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

page 7

18:2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

18:3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

18:4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle."

It was love at first sight as they say. Listen as the story unfolds: "18:20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

18:21 And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, **Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain.**"

In other words He was Saul's son in law for the second time. No other woman is mentioned so apparently he recognized the "covenant" that David and Jonathan had made.

You didn't learn this in Sunday or Sabbath school: "1 Samuel 20:41 And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded."

The word "exceeded" actually comes from the hebrew "gadal" which means to make large. In other words he became aroused. You don't just get aroused if you are just great friends. The major christian world can deny it but their love was more than the closest of friends.

Jonathon gave him a deeper, richer love than any women ever did. As to what level of intimacy they shared is not known, but by what texts we have we know they were as intimate as they possibly could be.

Daniel in the eunuch's den

Daniel was part of the Hebrew exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. He was made head of the eunuch's and though it does not say he was most likely made a eunuch as well. Ashpenaz was caused to feel affection towards Daniel as we read: "Daniel 1:9 Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs." Nothing more is mentioned, but many things are shrouded in mystery in the Bible.

Jesus heals a sex slave?

Remember the story of the centurions servant who was sick and had such faith and his servant was healed. Well the word used is the greek word "pais" from which the english word pederasty comes. Some people think the servant boy was a sex slave. I personally do not think Jesus would have treated the situation so lightly if it were the case. Words can mean different things. He could have been of age and committed lovers but I doubt that Jesus would ever treat child abuse with His blessing.

page 8

The heart of John

What was special about John? What caught the eye of God incarnate? Was he physically attractive? Was Jesus attracted to him? Regardless of the answers to these questions there was something different about John. He is described 5 times as the disciple whom Jesus loved in the Gospel of John. He layed on Jesus loved all of Him: "John 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved."

His love for John even made him as a son in law at the cross: "John 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

19:27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."

In a sense all Christian men have the privilege of calling Jesus their husband. We are his bride.

Epilogue

No matter where you are in accepting or understanding homosexuality, you are not alone. The Bible's language is love and unlike human love God's love does not discriminate, or does not limit horizons. Wherever you go and whatever you do never give up. The truth will reign triumphant. Live for that day. Live for Today, and Thank God for Tomorrow. As a contemporary Christian song says, "It's all gonna be O.K." We will be O.K. Because we are sheltered in the arms of God.

