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## Sodom and Gomorrah, A City Inflamed

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**Miles McPherson - May 30, 2004**

The story of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah is a story of God's judgment on homosexuality and the role of the righteous when faced with depravity and sin. It is also a story that is very appropriate to our society, country and city today. The story of Sodom and Gomorrah shows us that there are absolute moral laws as given by God in the Word and not only are the laws given but so are the consequences of disobeying those laws and what is the Christian's responsibility.

### Absolute Truth in Today's Society

**Romans 1:20** tells us that God's invisible attributes, such as His intelligence, power, wisdom, organization and strategy can be clearly seen. His divine nature including his love, compassion and patience is obvious from his creation so that we have no excuse when we deny the truth. People have no excuse when they fail to glorify Him or give thanks to God. **Romans 1:22** says, *Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...*

Paul could very well be speaking to us today because men are still claiming to be wise and show themselves to be fools because they are worshiping God's creation, science or Mother Nature not the Creator. Paul also tells the Romans what the consequences are for suppressing the truth, namely that God gave these men over to sinful desires in their hearts and they degraded their bodies with one another, man with man and woman with woman.

Today's society tries to teach us that morals are all relative that there are no absolute moral laws but this is not only wrong but a very dangerous way of thinking. For not only does God's Word tell us what is right and what is wrong but God also provides evidence of the consequences of breaking these moral laws. Even in today's society there are absolute moral laws in practice; rape and murder are universally condemned as wrong, yet there is an agenda being pushed on us that says homosexuality is normal and natural and right.

### Consequences of a Homosexual Lifestyle

God's Word tells us differently and He provides us of the evidence that homosexuality is not natural or normal. There are physiological repercussions from homosexual behavior; male homosexuals are 430 times more likely to contract HIV than a heterosexual, while heterosexuals have a 1-in-750,000 chance of contracting the virus responsible for HIV, a male homosexual has a 1-in-165 chance of getting HIV. A 20 year old gay male has a 30% chance of either dying or contracting AIDS before the age of 30. They are also 23 times more likely to get other sexually transmitted diseases than a heterosexual.

There are also moral repercussions stemming from homosexual behavior as evidenced by the fact that one third of all sexual crimes against children are committed by homosexuals even though they are representative of only one percent of the population. Pedophilia has even been called central to the gay lifestyle. The agenda of the North American Man Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) is to lower the age of consent so that sex with children will be legal.

#### Service Information

- Passage: [Genesis 18-19](#)
- Worship: The Rock Worship Band

#### Sunday Media

- [Sunday Message Video](#)
- [RockTV Video](#)
- [Lesson Plan](#)
- [Lesson Plan Key](#)
- [Weekly Quiz](#)

#### Small Groups

- [Small Group Questions](#)
- [Study Guide](#)

Emotionally people suffer from homosexuality. Gays are five times more likely to commit suicide than a straight person. They are suffering depression because of God's judgment and their alienation from Him. So God not only tells us what is right and wrong but that by continually doing what is wrong there will be consequences and this is all evident to us so we have no excuse in suppressing the truth.

## God's Justice for Lot and Sodom and Gomorroah

In **Genesis 18:20** the Lord visits Abraham, he tells him that he has heard an outcry against Sodom that is so great and that their sins are so grievous that the Lord is about to go down to see for Himself if they are as bad as he has heard. Abraham is immediately concerned for the righteous in the city, including his nephew Lot and his family, so he negotiates with the Lord to save the city if there are enough righteous people living there. Abraham finally gets the Lord to agree to spare Sodom if there are ten righteous people in the city. But there are only four and God saves the righteous while destroying the wicked.

Continuing in **Genesis 19** the two angels that were with the Lord arrived in Sodom and were met at the gates by Lot and when they wanted to sleep in the town square were strongly persuaded by Lot to retire to his house instead where he prepared a meal for them. Before everyone could go to sleep though, Lot's house was surrounded by the young and old of the city and they demanded that Lot send the visitors out to have sex with them.

After Lot offered the mob his own daughters instead, they closed on Lot threatening him with worse than the visitors were about to receive saying that since Lot had first come to Sodom he had judged them. The angels told Lot to get his family out of the city as it was about to suffer God's judgment so Lot went to his sons-in-law who thought he was joking.

## Responsibilities of the Righteous

We need to understand that God is not joking. If we continually disregard his moral laws God will give us over to a depraved mind and we will suffer the consequences. There are responsibilities for people who live according to the Word of God and the story of Lot shows the role of the righteous in the face of sin:

- **The righteous persistently pray for protection;** we can put this into use in the current situation of an agenda being pressed on us by a very determined very small minority. They push this agenda by trying to institutionalize their right to marriage, God's sacred union between a man, woman and God; by taking away the right to free speech and by teaching our children that homosexuality is normal.
- **The righteous protect by their presence,** Lot was waiting at the gate of the city trying to protect innocent travelers.
- **The righteous pray for God's intervention.** We need to at the very least protect the children with our prayers and actions. Talk to your schools, your churches and your congressmen about your opposition to the homosexual agenda.
- **The righteous provide for security,** like Lot who would not allow the angels to sleep outside and counseled them to leave the next morning.
- **The righteous point out sin and the coming judgment.** This leads to the righteous being called judgmental because people do not like to be told they are wrong.

The righteous response by God will be that He will warn us as he did with Abraham. He will save the righteous as He did with Lot and finally He will stop the spread of sin through judgment, as He did with the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. God's grace is the only thing that protects us from suffering the penalty for our sins which is death.

We should not take God's patience for indifference because even though He gives us unconditional love he does not give unconditional approval. God will accept us as we are but he loves us too much to keep us that way. He is a God of love and patience but requires that we be righteous.