

**How Did We Get Here?
Experiencing God – Part 9
3-9-2025**

**Dr. J. Kenneth Grider PhD – University of Glasgow
Translation Committee of the NIV - 1978
“Wesleyans and Homosexuality” - March 1999**

**Wesleyans have always been great at helping groups of people who have not been getting a fair shake in society.
For instance, Wesleyans allow women to preach!**

1 Corinthians 11:5 (NIV) *“But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved.”*

To prophecy is to preach.

1 Corinthians 14:34 (NIV) *“Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says.”*

Acts 2:16-18 (NIV) *“No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out My Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.”*

Galatians 3:28 (NIV) *“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

My question now is whether we might be the ones whom God wants to come running to help again, to help the millions of gay and lesbian persons born as gays in this country alone, who are our last oppressed minority.

Scientific Studies - Up to 10% of mammals have this attraction or proclivity for same sex partners.

Grider’s conclusion is that for a homosexual to pray for a change in one’s sexual orientation is about as meaningless as to pray for a change in the color of one’s eyes or to pray that instead of being left-handed you would become right-handed.

Matthew 19:12 (NIV) *“For there are eunuchs who were **born that way**, and there are eunuchs who have been **made eunuchs by others**—and there are those who **choose to live like eunuchs** for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.”*

SCRIPTURE AND HOMOSEXUALITY

**Wesleyan Quadrilateral:
Reason, Experience, Tradition, Scripture**

**Scripture is most important to Wesley and in
Experiencing God Scripture is the most important means
to hearing God speak by the Holy Spirit
to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.**

Clobber Scriptures

**Genesis 19:4-5 Leviticus 18:22 Leviticus 20:13
Romans 1:26-27 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 1 Timothy 1:8-11**

**The Story of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18-19
Hospitality vs Homosexuality**

**Sodom is the basis for homosexuality
being named sodomy.**

Genesis 19:4-5 (NIV) *“Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. ⁵ They called to Lot, ‘Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.’”*

**What is easy to notice is that this is about gang rape
and violence to visitors to their city. It does not speak
to loving and consensual same sex relationships.**

**The importance of hospitality is a key value
in ancient Israelite society.**

Ezekiel 16:49-50 (NIV) *“Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. ⁵⁰ They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.”*

Matthew 10:15 (NIV) *“Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.”*

“The Holiness Code” Leviticus 18:22 and Leviticus 20:13

Leviticus 18:22 (NIV) *“Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.”*

Leviticus 20:13 (NIV) *“If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.”*

Leviticus 19:18 (NIV) *“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.”*

The Biblical references are dealing with practices consistent with the idolatry of the other nations of their time.

Those practices include abusive and violent predatory sexual pursuits that probably included men with men or men with boys but clearly not as loving and monogamous committed long-term relationships between two equal homosexual partners.

Susan Pigott – former **Evangelical Professor of Hebrew** Logsdon Seminary at the Hardin-Simmons University says,
“These are highly processed translations.”

Leviticus 18:22, translated literally from the Hebrew, says,
“and with a male not will you lie the lyings of a woman.”

Translators have taken great liberties in smoothing out these verses by adding English words to try to make it make sense. We do not know what “the lyings of a woman” are.

Ezekiel 18:10-13 (NIV) *“Suppose he has a violent son, who sheds blood or does any of these other things ¹¹ (though the father has done none of them): He eats at the mountain shrines. He defiles his neighbor’s wife.*

¹² He oppresses the poor and needy.

He commits robbery.

He does not return what he took in pledge.

He looks to the idols.

He does detestable things.

¹³ He lends at interest and takes a profit.

Will such a man live? He will not! Because he has done all these detestable things, he is to be put to death; his blood will be on his own head.”

What Paul says About Idolatry:

Romans 1:22-23 (NIV) “Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.”

Romans 1:26-27 (NIV) *“Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.*

All these sex acts are linked to exploitation, abuse, and violence and not to loving, consensual, same-sex relationships.

Romans 1:29-31 (NIV) *“They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.”*

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NIV) *“Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”*

Two critical Greek words that are difficult to translate:

Malakoi - “soft” or “effeminate”. Male prostitutes.

Arsenokoites - a male using his superiority to take sexual advantage of another male. It is a term of **sexual abuse**.

1 Timothy 1:8-11 (NIV) *“We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹ We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹ that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.”*

Seven Realities of Experiencing God

Reality #1 - God is always at work around you.

Reality #2 - God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real, personal, and practical.

Reality #3 - God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.

Reality #4 - God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, Prayer, Circumstances, and the Church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

Reality #5 - God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a Crisis of Belief that requires faith and action.

Reality #6 - You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.

Reality #7 - You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.