

HOMOSEXUALITY and LEADERSHIP.

1. The present muddle is due in large measure to a failure both by church leaders, commentators and the media to make the distinction between those who are

a) **homosexual by personality** but remain chaste, and

b) those who are **practicing homosexuals**.

2. If we lump the two together under the term 'homosexual' or 'gay' then unease expressed about homosexual *practice* appears as intolerance of homosexual *personalities* in general. Anything more unfair, or likely to foster resentment and anger would be hard to imagine.

3. Neither the homosexual personality nor the heterosexual personality is evil in itself. Morality is how a person **behaves**; it is surely evident that both personality types can behave well and that both personality types can behave badly. Both have human nature in common!

4. The Christian knows (perhaps best of all) the undeserved love and forgiveness that God has for us and the empowering of his Spirit to 'live in newness of life'. A Christian persecutor, like Saul, can become the great Christian champion. Transformation is close to the essence of Christianity.

5. Christians, therefore, must expect change and transformation in themselves and others. We must be particularly sensitive, by what we say and do, not to drag folk back to that from which God has been, or is now, delivering them. We must use words carefully. Yesterday's labels may not appropriately describe what God is doing in a person's life today.

6. The three lists in which practising homosexuality is condemned in the New Testament comprise the following:

idolatry, impiety, wickedness, vanity, impurity, lust, bodily degradation, rejection of truth, degraded passions, unnatural relations, lack of mental discernment, improper acts, greed, malice, envy, murder, rivalry, treachery, spite, gossip, scandal-mongering, hating God, insolence, haughtiness, boasting, ingenious wickedness, rebellion against parents, senselessness, faithlessness, heartlessness, ruthlessness, injustice, fornication, adultery, boy prostitution, theft, drunkenness, slander, robbery, lawlessness, unruliness, godlessness, sin, unholiness, profanity, parent-murder, kidnapping, lying, perjury, and opposing sound teaching.

[From Romans 1, 1 Corinthians 6, and 1 Timothy 1]

The New Testament lists do not place homosexual practises seemingly above all else – as some are now doing – but as part of a great cluster of things that characterise humanity's sickness.

7. The fog and fear surrounding the subject of homosexuality might begin to recede if Christians mentally brought homosexual issues down to the size they are in the New Testament.

8. Perhaps a Biblical sense of **proportion** is one requirement of being truly 'Biblical'?

For more information, see the article "Homosexuality and the Church" on this website.