

MATTHEW VINES ON **ROMANS 1 AND** **HOMOSEXUALITY**

DOES ROMANS 1 CATEGORIZE HOMOSEXUALITY AS A SIN?



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- **WHAT DOES THE BIBLE REALLY SAY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY? IF WE ARE GOING TO SAY IT IS SINFUL, WE NEED TO KNOW FOR SURE THAT'S WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES. OTHERWISE WE WRONGLY CONDEMN OTHERS.**
- **IF SOME ARE GOING TO SAY IT'S NOT A SIN, WE NEED TO SEE IF IT IS TRUE THAT THE BIBLE APPROVES OF HOMOSEXUALITY. IF IT IS A SIN WE MUST REMEMBER THAT ROMANS 1:18 SAYS GOD'S WRATH IS AGAINST SINNERS FOR THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.**

WHO IS MATTHEW VINES?

BORN IN 1990 AND GREW UP IN KANSAS.

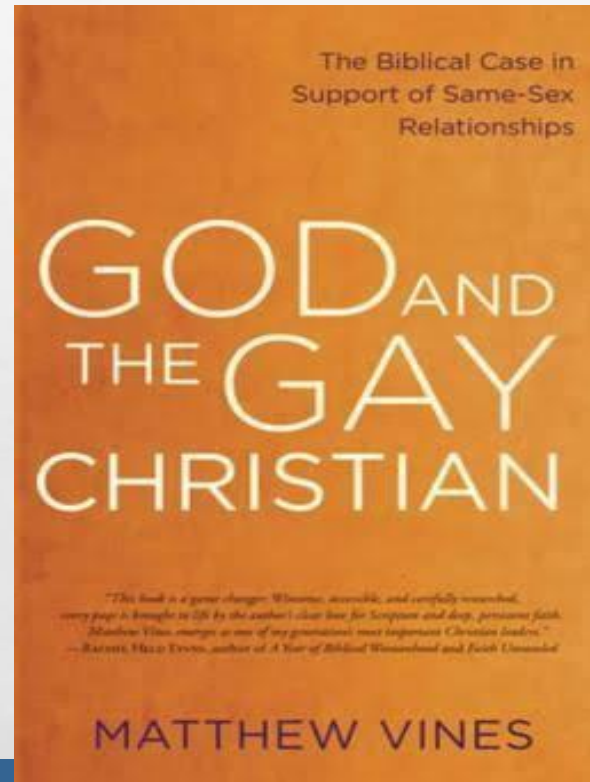
DROPPED OUT OF HARVARD TO RESEARCH ON WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

PUBLISHED A BOOK TITLED "GOD AND THE GAY CHRISTIAN"

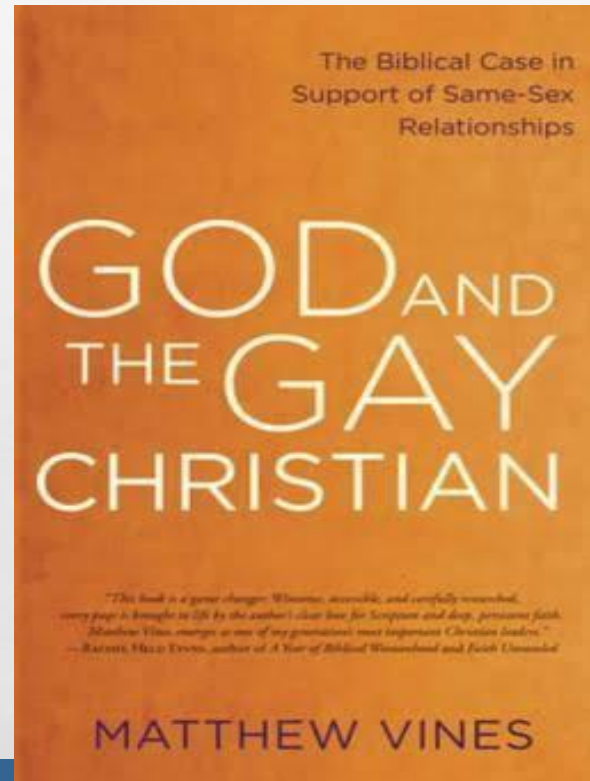
TODAY HE IS A POPULAR SPEAKER AND AUTHOR ARGUING THAT THE BIBLE APPROVES OF HOMOSEXUALITY



MATTHEW VINES' BOOK: GOD AND THE GAY CHRISTIAN



THIS BOOK HAS A CHAPTER ON ROMANS 1



ROMANS 1:26-27

- ***26 FOR THIS REASON GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO DEGRADING PASSIONS; FOR THEIR WOMEN EXCHANGED THE NATURAL FUNCTION FOR THAT WHICH IS UNNATURAL, 27 AND IN THE SAME WAY ALSO THE MEN ABANDONED THE NATURAL FUNCTION OF THE WOMAN AND BURNED IN THEIR DESIRE TOWARD ONE ANOTHER, MEN WITH MEN COMMITTING UNDECENT ACTS AND RECEIVING IN THEIR OWN PERSONS THE DUE PENALTY OF THEIR ERROR.***

STARTING POINT PART 1: VINES DOES HAVE PROBLEMATIC PRESUPPOSITIONS

- **DIFFERENT ETHICAL SYSTEM IMPOSED ON THE BIBLE: HUMANISTIC CONSEQUENTIALIST ETHICS**
- **MISPLACING THE ROLE OF EXPERIENCE OVER SCRIPTURE CONCERNING TEMPTATION, SIN AND BEARING FRUIT**
- **BAD UNDERSTANDING OF OLD TESTAMENT LAWS**
- **VINES THINKS KNOWING HOMOSEXUALS MAKES ONE LEAN AGAINST BIBLICAL VIEW**

STARTING POINT PART 2: WHERE VINES AND I DO AGREE:

- **“ROMANS 1:26-27 IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BIBLICAL PASSAGE IN THIS DEBATE” (96)**
- **PAUL IS NOT WRONG**
- **CONTEXT IS IMPORTANT**
- **CONTEXT OF ROMANS 1-3 IS ABOUT THAT NO ONE IS RIGHTEOUS AND ALL HAVE SINNED (97)**
- **ROMANS 1 GIVES US A LIST OF VICIES THAT GOD DOESN'T APPROVE (103)**

“TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION, WE’LL LOOK AT THE MEANINGS OF THE WORDS NATURAL AND UNNATURAL IN ANCIENT WRITINGS, AS WELL AS THE BROADER CULTURAL CONTEXT OF PAUL’S STATEMENTS” (101)

VINES CENTRAL ARGUMENT

ARGUMENT 1: HOMOSEXUALITY CAN'T BE CHANGED

- **VINES ADMITS: “WITH EACH VICE PAUL LISTED IN ROMANS 1:18-32, HUMANS ARE CAPABLE OF MAKING THE OPPOSITE, VIRTUOUS CHOICE” (103)**
- **BUT THEN HE ASSERTS: “GAY PEOPLE CANNOT CHOOSE TO FOLLOW OPPOSITE-SEX ATTRACTIONS, BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO OPPOSITE-SEX ATTRACTIONS TO FOLLOW—NOR CAN THEY MANUFACTURE THEM” (103)**
- **THEREFORE ROMANS 1:26-27 DOES NOT APPLY TO HOMOSEXUALS AS A SIN.**

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENT 1

- **IF ROMANS 1:26-27 DOES NOT APPLY BECAUSE HOMOSEXUALS CAN'T CHANGE, VINES STILL HAS THE PROBLEM THAT ROMANS 1:26-27'S "DESCRIPTION OF SAME-SEX BEHAVIOR IN THIS PASSAGE IS INDISPUTABLY NEGATIVE" (99).**
- **THIS IS SOMETHING HE ADMITS THAT ROMANS 1:26-27 IS NEGATIVE ABOUT SAME-SEX BEHAVIOR THEREFORE HIS REASONING CANNOT RULE OUT WHAT THE PASSAGE CLEARLY SAYS.**

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENT 1

- **WE MUST ALWAYS GO FROM THE CLEAR TO THE UNCLEAR AND REVERSE VINES' REASONING: IF ROMANS 1:26-27 DOES CONDEMN HOMOSEXUALITY AS A SIN, THEN WE MUST APPROPRIATE THE PROMISE FOUND IN 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 THAT GOD ALWAYS ALLOW A WAY OUT OF TEMPTATION= *"NO TEMPTATION HAS OVERTAKEN YOU BUT SUCH AS IS COMMON TO MAN; AND GOD IS FAITHFUL, WHO WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO BE TEMPTED BEYOND WHAT YOU ARE ABLE, BUT WITH THE TEMPTATION WILL PROVIDE THE WAY OF ESCAPE ALSO, SO THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ENDURE IT."***

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENT 1

- **VINES' REASONING IS DANGEROUS AND INCONSISTENT. WHAT IF SOMEONE SAYS THEY CANNOT PURSUE THE OPPOSITE OF SIN WITH THE OTHER SINS IN ROMANS 1? SHOULD WE SAY PRIDE, MURDER AND GOSSIPS ARE NO LONGER SINFUL BECAUSE ONE CAN'T CHANGE?**
- **FORTUNATELY VINES DOES NOT APPROVE OF THE SINS MENTIONED IN THE REST OF ROMANS 1 BUT THIS JUST GOES TO SHOW THE INCONSISTENCIES IN HIS ARGUMENT.**

ARGUMENT 2: HOMOSEXUALITY AS EXCESSIVE SEXUALITY IS CONDEMNED, NOT HOMOSEXUALITY AS AN ORIENTATION

- **POINT: “PAUL WASN’T CONDEMNING THE EXPRESSION OF A SAME-SEX ORIENTATION AS OPPOSED TO THE EXPRESSION OF AN OPPOSITE-SEX ORIENTATION. HE WAS CONDEMNING EXCESS AS OPPOSED TO MODERATION” (105).**

ARGUMENT 2: HOMOSEXUALITY AS EXCESSIVE SEXUALITY IS CONDEMNED, NOT HOMOSEXUALITY AS AN ORIENTATION

- **ARGUMENT:**

- **QUOTATION OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM TO SUPPORT THE IDEA THAT “IN PAUL’S DAY, SAME-SEX RELATIONS WERE A POTENT SYMBOL OF SEXUAL EXCESS. THEY OFFERED AN EFFECTIVE ILLUSTRATION OF PAUL’S ARGUMENT: WE LOSE CONTROL WHEN WE ARE LEFT TO OUR OWN DEVICES” (106).**
- **THEREFORE: “SAME-SEX BEHAVIOR CONDEMNED AS EXCESS DOESN’T TRANSLATE TO HOMOSEXUALITY CONDEMNED AS AN ORIENTATION—OR AS A LOVING EXPRESSION OF THAT ORIENTATION” (106)**

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENT 2

- **NOWHERE DOES ROMANS 1:26-27 IS THERE A LANGUAGE ABOUT “EXCESSIVE SEXUALITY.” THEREFORE VINES IS IMPOSING ON THE TEXT THINGS THAT ARE NOT THERE.**

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENT 2

- **VINES MUST ALSO JUSTIFY WHY HE IS QUOTING CHRYSOSTOM WHO LIVED HUNDREDS OF YEARS AFTER PAUL AS A “CONTEXT” FOR UNDERSTANDING PAUL.**
- **ALSO CHRYSOSTOM’S QUOTE DOES NOT ONLY TALK ABOUT EXCESS SEXUALITY BUT ALSO HOW HOMOSEXUALITY IS WRONG BECAUSE IT GOES AGAINST NORMAL. SO VINES IS WRONG IN HIS CITATION.**

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENT 2

- **VINES' REASONING IS INCONSISTENT. WHAT IF SOMEONE USE THE SAME ARGUMENT FOR THE REST OF ROMANS 1? SHOULD WE SAY PAUL IS ONLY SPEAKING AGAINST EXCESSIVE PRIDE, MURDER AND GOSSIPS?**

ROMANS 1:26-27 IS ABOUT VIOLATING GOD'S CREATED ORDER

**SINCE PAUL TALKS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY
GOING AGAINST NATURE DOES SECULAR
STUDIES COLLABORATE AND CONFIRM
ISSUES WITH HOMOSEXUALITY? YES! SEE
HANDOUT**