

# A Scriptural Response to Homosexuality

## Lesson 2: God's Consistent Response to Sin

### INTRODUCTION

Imagine you were the LORD. You had created a perfect, beautiful world and given it to Adam and Eve. You gave them one command by which to tangibly demonstrate their willing love, trust, and gratitude for your kindness: don't eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Yet despite having done everything for them, they chose to rebel against you and side with Satan. At that moment what options would have been at your disposal? Which might you have preferred?

### GOD'S RESPONSE TO SIN

#### *STEP 1:*

1.) What is God's first step in responding to our sin and sinfulness?

**Genesis 3:7-13** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

**2 Samuel 11:27 – 12:1, 13** But the thing David had done displeased the LORD. The LORD sent Nathan to David. ...Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

**Psalms 90:7-8** We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.

**Romans 3:20** Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

2.) Why does God do this? Why not just look the other way and let us continue on in our sin?

**Psalm 7:11** God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day.

**Revelation 20:12-13** And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

**Genesis 6:5-6** The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

**Jeremiah 7:19** "But am I the one they are provoking? declares the LORD. Are they not rather harming themselves, to their own shame?"

**Romans 6:23a** For the wages of sin is death.

**1 John 1:8,10** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ...If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

3.) What is God's goal in confronting us with his holy law?

**Ezekiel 33:11** "Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?'"

**Matthew 4:17** From that time on [after John had been put in prison] Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

**Psalm 51:17** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

*STEP 2:*

1.) What unconditional promise does God hold out to all who confess and repent of their sins?

**Genesis 3:15** “I will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

**Exodus 34:6-7** And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.”

**1 John 1:9; 2:2** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ... [Jesus Christ] is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

**1 Timothy 2:3-4** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

2.) What then is God’s solution for the cycle of sin and guilt in which we are hopelessly trapped?

**Jeremiah 31:34** “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

**Psalms 103:9-12** He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

**Micah 7:18-19** Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

**Luke 18:13-14** “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.”

3.) What do God's faithfulness and free grace in Christ motivate us to do when confronted with our sins?

**Romans 6:1-4, 11-14** What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ...In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

**John 8:3-11** The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

**1 John 3:9-10** No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

### CONCLUSION

God's response to human sin is surprisingly simple and straightforward, with law and gospel working together to keep us in the way of faith and godliness:

- 1.) He confronts, exposes, and condemns sin in order to bring us to confess and repent of it.
- 2.) He offers free forgiveness to all who repent and believe in the Savior so that thereby they are fully restored to him and empowered to live a new life resisting sin to his glory.