

04 Week Four

Over the course of human history we have encountered questions that take us beyond the assumptions and problems envisioned by the biblical writers themselves, and these new questions and problems have forced us to reread the text and to probe more deeply for answers ... When we encounter questions and issues not contemplated by the biblical writers, we must not allow the limitations of the experience of the biblical writers to be used to deny the truths that evidently lie before us ... The Bible never envisions the elimination of the practice of slavery in society ... the silence of the Bible on issues never envisioned by the Bible is, in and of itself, not a compelling argument. What is normal in Scripture is not necessarily also normative. – James V. Brownson, *Bible, Gender, Sexuality*, p 104–105

Genesis 1.26,27

Genesis 2.18–25

With Christian or Jewish presuppositions, or indeed Muslim, if you believe in what it says in Genesis 1 about God making heaven and earth – and the binaries in Genesis are so important – that heaven and earth, and sea and dry land, and so on and so on, and you end up with male and female. It's all about God making complementary pairs which are meant to work together. – N.T. Wright, "N. T. Wright on Gay Marriage"

In Genesis 2:18–24, a binary or sexually undifferentiated human is split into two differentiated beings. Marriage is treated by the Yahwist as a reunion of two complementary sexual others, a reconstitution of the sexual unity of the original adam. – Robert Gagnon, *Homosexuality and the Bible*, p 61

"Male and female he created them" probably intimates that the fullness of God's "image" come together in the union of male and female in marriage ... – Robert Gagnon, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*, p 58

"Surely you are my bone and my flesh!" – Genesis 29.14, ©NRSV

Remember also that I am your bone and your flesh. – Judges 9.2, ©NRSV

... all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh. – 2 Samuel 5.1, ©NRSV

You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast ... – Deuteronomy 10.20, ©NRSV

Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. – Ruth 1.14, ©NRSV

For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following him but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses. – 2 Kings 18.6, ©NRSV

God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth ...” – Genesis 9.1, ©NRSV

God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and he blessed him ... God said to him, “I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply ...” – Genesis 35.9,11, NRSV

I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply ...
– Jeremiah 23.3, ©NRSV

Genesis 19.1-14

Judges 19.22-26

They commit adultery and live a lie. The people of Jerusalem are like Gomorrah ... – Jeremiah 23:14, @NIV

... 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. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. – Ezekiel 16:49,50, ©NIV

Leviticus 18:22; 20:13

Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable. – Leviticus 18:22, @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 20:13, @NIV

Eating pork, rabbit, shellfish and animals that are already dead. – Deuteronomy 14:3-21, @NIV

robbery, not restoring one's pledge, lifting up eyes to idols and charging interest on loans ... – Ezekiel 18:10-13, @NIV

Admitting foreigners to the temple and profaning the temple when offering sacrifices of fat and blood. – Ezekiel 44:5-7, @NIV

kings doing evil, justifying the wicked and condemning the righteous, the scoffer, not listening to the law, and the unjust – Proverbs 3:32; 6:15–17; 8:7; 11:20; 11:1, 20:10, 20:23; 12:22; 15:8; 21:27; 15:26; 16:5; 16:12; 17:15; 24:9; 28:9; 29:27, @NIV

1 Corinthians 6.9–10

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, nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. – 1Corinthians 6:9–10, @NIV

Malakoi = soft, possibly “effeminate”

Arsenokoitai = literal “man-bedders”

In imperial Rome same-sex activity was “strongly associated with slavery, idolatry, and social dominance...often the assertion of strong over the bodies of the weak. – Michael Vasey, Strangers and Friends, p.132

1 Timothy 1.8–11

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, 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 that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me. – 1 Timothy 1:9–11, @NIV

pornoi = “male prostitutes” or “fornicators”

Arsenokoitai = literal “man-bedders”

Andropodistai = “slave dealers” and “kidnappers”

Romans 1.18–27

The man whose appetite is insatiate in such things, when he finds there is no scarcity, no resistance, in this field, will have contempt for the easy conquest and scorn for a woman's love, as a thing to readily given – in fact, too utterly feminine – he will turn his assault against the male quarters, eager to befoul the youth who will very soon the magistrates and judges and generals, believing that in them he will find a kind of pleasure difficult and hard to procure. His state is like that of men who are addicted to drinking in wine-bibbing, who after long and steady drinking of unmixed wine, often lose their taste for it in creating an artificial thirst ... – Dio Chrysostom, Dio Chrysostom 7:152, vol.1, p 373

Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair, it is degrading to him, but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? – 1 Corinthians 11.14, ©NRSV