

Biblical Pleas Against The Discrimination Of Homosexual People

~19~

Conclusion

The following must be noted: The Bible nowhere encourages homosexual behavior. But taking into account the cultural background it is not clear whether the critique of the Bible only is directed towards promiscuous homosexual behavior of that time (usually practiced by otherwise heterosexual living individuals); and whether it takes no account of an in mutual love lived partnership of homosexually inclined people. This open situation offers no explicit permission. But it alters the fundamental condemnation of all homosexual life forms as sin without dispute, as it is commonly believed in conservative Christian communities

Indeed the order of creation of man and woman as divinely ordained couple sets the criterion. But it must be taken into account, that in a fallen and modified world there do exist variations of this original order, and that these even can exist as a precondition in individual lives. Nobody can declare or demand the conversion of homosexual into heterosexual feelings – based solely on the experience of single individuals – as being comprehensible for all homosexuals especially since homosexuality has various manifestations and occurs in varyingly strong or even exclusive forms.

If such a required transformation for homosexually inclined persons as a rule is not possible and if also a life-long celibate lifestyle usually is not successful, then the Christian community will have to face the question of whether they can tolerate homosexual partnerships who wish to orientate themselves towards the ideal of Christian marriage through a life-long commitment. This question will inevitably become important under the "pressure" of social development – similar to the fact, that the growing number of divorcees and people, who wish to divorce, have already obtained in the world and in the communities a more differentiated, more humane view of this problem.

Apart from that the Bible indeed encourages to allow extraordinary solutions and exceptions. Often it even prizes a single fate above the letter of the law, particularly where a primarily excluded person humbly seeks the proximity of God and asks for merciful inclusion.

Biblical Pleas Against The Discrimination Of Homosexual People

The great interpreters of the Bible - first and foremost Jesus himself - suggest to us, to honestly interpret the Bible under the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a way, that the welfare of the people has priority, instead of a grimly literal determination to enforce obedience at all costs.

It should not be dismissed a priori as irresponsible liberalism and disregard of God's Word, then, to tolerate homosexual partnerships, or even to support those affected to hold together in fidelity. The Bible itself gives us examples where the "crossing" of (in the letter itself clearly formulated) laws may even be an expression of acting in the spirit of Jesus, where merciful love creates and preserves a dwelling place for the individual.