

Recently I saw a movie centered around a lesbian couple. There is a Bible verse that has for centuries been used to condemn the LGBT community. *Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men...will inherit the kingdom of God.*

This is a classic example of pointing the finger while the other three are point back at the accuser. It is also a flagrant example of using a portion of the Biblical text to “prove” a personal position on a matter.

Let’s take a wider view of the text and see what Paul is getting at: *Don’t you know that unrighteous people will have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don’t delude yourselves — people who engage in sex before marriage, who worship idols, who engage in sex after marriage with someone other than their spouse, who engage in active or passive homosexuality, who steal, who are greedy, who get drunk, who assail people with contemptuous language, who rob — none of them will share in the Kingdom of God.* 1Cor 6:9-10 CJB

Paul’s letter to the Corinthians wasn’t just talking about homosexuality, he was addressing a whole range of improper behavior.

He address the same topic when writing to the Galatians: *And it is perfectly evident what the old nature does. It expresses itself in sexual immorality, impurity and indecency; involvement with the occult and with drugs; in feuding, fighting, becoming jealous and getting angry; in selfish ambition, factionalism, intrigue and envy; in drunkenness, orgies and things like these. I warn you now as I have warned you before: those who do such things will have no share in the Kingdom of God!* Gal 5:19-21 CJB He addresses it again in his letter to the Ephesians. Eph 5:4-6

Between these three references one can gather the implication that much of our human behavior misses the mark and thus the sharing in the Kingdom of God. *...since all have sinned and come short of earning God’s praise* (Rom 3:23).

Can anyone confidently say that they have never engaged in any of these behaviors? The range is so wide that my answer is “that I doubt it”.

If one misses the target even once, they do not have a perfect score. A perfect score is what is needed to enter the Kingdom of God. It doesn’t matter which of our arrows miss the target or how far it misses, the score is still not perfect. The same is true of sin – making us unrighteous.

*For a person who keeps the whole Torah (Law), yet stumbles at one point, has become guilty of breaking them all.* James 2:10 (CJB)

This is why the Father sent His Son Jesus (Yeshua); He is a perfect shot – never misses. He has chosen to give us His score and make us eligible for His Kingdom. We only have to accept His perfect score and allow His perfect way of living to become ours. This process takes time, work and diligence, but the end results are worth the effort.

Earlier I intentionally quoted only a portion of a verse, taking it out of context, to show that when we do that, we miss a great deal of what the writer was trying to get across – as is evident in the first verse I quoted.

Paul did say to the Roman church, that “all have sinned” but the context tells us why and how it will be corrected.

*For in his sight no one alive will be considered righteous on the ground of legalistic observance of Torah commands, because what Torah really does is show people how sinful they are. But now, quite apart from Torah, God’s way of making people righteous in his sight has been made clear — although the Torah and the Prophets give their witness to it as well — and it is a righteousness that comes from God, through the faithfulness of Yeshua the Messiah, to all who continue trusting.*

*For it makes no difference whether one is a Jew or a Gentile, since all have sinned and come short of earning God’s praise. By God’s grace, without earning it, all are granted the status of being considered righteous before him, through the act redeeming us from our enslavement to sin that was accomplished by the Messiah Yeshua.* Romans 3:20-24 (CJB)

So if one wants to condemn the individuals of the LGBT community they must also condemn themselves as well. For they deal in the occult and worship other gods, they commit adultery, they steal, and rob, they drink to excess, they deal and use drugs, they fight and quarrel, they are greedy and have selfish attitudes, they are contentious with their spouse, they assail others, because they are sinners, missing the mark, as well.

These behaviors are not how we were designed to live, but we as people all fall short, in one way or another, to live up to our designed potential. People make mistakes but never stop being a child God has created. None of us deserve what God has planned for every one of us in His Kingdom. Only His Grace makes it possible.