

QUESTION: I would like you to discuss question #31 on the Fourth Step questions. How does one deal with it, and is it true a real Christian would never have had a homosexual relationship?

ANSWER: Here is question #31 from the Adolescence section of the Fourth Step questions: "Did you have any homosexual experiences? Did someone try to tell you that you were a homosexual, because of some experience you had? Were you made to feel you were "born that way" rather than having it forced on you? What other misguided sexual information did you receive from your peers?"

This is in the section that covers your adolescence, from approximately 12 or 13 years old to 19 or 20. Many teens experiment sexually during this time, or get involved with homosexuality because they feel they "fit in better" with that crowd. Adolescence is a difficult time for most teens, but especially for those who don't feel comfortable in their developing bodies, or feel ugly and confused about sexual issues. Then, add to that equation any sexual abuse done to that teen in their earlier years, or an adult homosexual predator recruiting the teen and telling them lies. The biggest lie is that they were "born that way" and that God meant for them to be a lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or whatever. This is the biggest lie, because homosexual behavior is a sexual addiction not much different than alcoholism or drug addiction. Whether these behaviors started before or after a person accepted Jesus Christ and was born again, they are still just behavioral sins of the flesh, and something that the Christian needs to surrender to the Lord and overcome. Your question of "is it true a real Christian would never have had a homosexual relationship?" sounds like you or the person making that statement does not understand what it means to be a "true Christian." If you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are born again and given eternal life, and no outside behavior of yours, whether sexual sins, or drunkenness, or lying, or gossiping, or whatever, can ever separate you from Christ or cause you to be "unborn" and no longer be a child of God. In other words, nothing can cause you to "lose your salvation", and a "real Christian" may still have many "issues" and sins of the flesh to work on in their life. Yes, our behavior is important to the Lord, and we should not think lightly about sin, but we should never confuse our behavior with our salvation and standing with God. We did not earn our salvation by our good works or by giving up this or that sin, we received the gift of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, our sins or bad behavior cannot wipe out the gift of eternal life that has been given to us by God.

Here is an excerpt from our paper entitled "Questions & Answers - Is Alcoholism or Drug Addiction a Disease?" It applies to sexual addictions as well as to alcoholism and drug addiction.

It's all very well for us to go to AA meetings and NA meetings and talk about how our addiction is a "disease", but in God's vocabulary, that is not true. If you hear it in AA and NA meetings enough, you will start to believe it, but **it is a LIE from the devil!** It's just like the LIE that the homosexuals believe about how they were "born this way" and so that's why they say we can't call it a sin. They have believed a popular lie also, and one that is extremely destructive to their lives. If you believe you are born a certain way, or something is a disease, **then YOU are not responsible**, and you can't be blamed for not having control over it. Satan wants you to believe those lies, because then you will not apply the principles of God's word to your problems, because you will think they don't apply to you. It's that idea of "I'm special. My case is different. You just don't understand MY problems!" As if God's word were not sufficient for ANY problem! Instead, here is what God's word says about addictive behavior: a sin that we commit over and over **becomes a bad habit**, and a bad habit indulged over and over for a long period of time **becomes a stronghold**. II Corinthians 10:3-5 tells us how the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God to the PULLING DOWN of

STRONGHOLDS! If you believe you have a DISEASE rather than a STRONGHOLD, you won't bother to pull it down. Chicken pox is a disease. Cancer is a disease. Even athlete's foot is a nasty fungus disease, but alcoholism, drug addiction, sexual perversions and sexual promiscuity (either homosexual or heterosexual, God calls it "fornication" and "adultery"), cigarette smoking, and over-eating (God calls it "gluttony") are NOT diseases. God's word calls them sins, and when you indulge a sin over and over, you become enslaved and in bondage to that sin, which is another way to say it is a stronghold.

- **Romans 6:16** "Do you not know that to whom **you present yourselves SLAVES to OBEY**, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of **OBEDIENCE** to righteousness?"
- **II Peter 2:19** "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are **SLAVES of corruption**; for by whom (or WHAT) a person is overcome (enslaved), by him also he is brought into BONDAGE."
- **John 8:34-36** "Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **whoever commits SIN is a SLAVE to sin**. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if **the Son (Jesus) MAKES you FREE**, you shall be free indeed."

What does it mean to "Present yourselves SLAVES to OBEY" (Romans 6:16)? How did you **get ADDICTED** to something in the first place? **You PRESENTED YOURSELF**, or **EXPOSED** your flesh (your physical body or mental/emotional make-up) to that thing, whether it was ALCOHOL, NICOTINE, DRUGS, certain SEXUAL BEHAVIORS, PORNOGRAPHY, OVER-EATING, or other "compulsive" behaviors, until a HABIT was DEVELOPED. After enough times of EXPOSURE, your flesh was TRAINED to WANT and even **DEMAND those things**. Some addictions are more EMOTIONAL than physical - you have **emotional TRIGGERS** that you have allowed to be built up over time. The OPPOSITE is also true: TRAIN YOURSELF to do the right things, the THINGS OF GOD, and eventually the fleshly things which kept you in BONDAGE will subside and no longer be able to hold you.

It's true that once a stronghold has been built up, **it is much harder to make those good choices**, and may take more time, but it can be done. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Of course, it's much easier to "just say no" and pass up a cigarette or a drink if you've never gotten HOOKED on them! It's much harder when your body craves the nicotine or alcohol, and you have emotional "triggers" for when "I need a smoke (or drink) right now!" Also, the original choices to present yourself to the wrong behaviors were probably influenced by low self esteem, things that happened in your childhood, and other outside factors, but the choice was still yours to make. God did not make the homosexual that way, anymore than He made a person to be 100 pounds overweight. A person was not born having homosexual tendencies, you weren't born with a cigarette in your mouth, and you weren't born with a beer can or a jug of whiskey in your hand. **You LEARNED certain behaviors, good or bad, that helped you "cope with life" in some way, and they shaped your life into what may have later become a number of addiction problems.** It's like untying a huge, horrible knot of string. You have to find where it first began, or at least find an end piece, and then you can begin to unwind it. Doing the 12-Steps, especially the 4th and 5th Steps, is like finding the beginning piece of string, or finding the end piece and following it to the beginning, and then you can begin to unwind the knot.

Regarding homosexuality, we find it mentioned specifically in God's word in Romans 1:18-32, I Corinthians 6:9-11, I Timothy 1:8-11 ("sodomites") and other passages. Otherwise, it is included in the general prohibitions against "fornication, adultery and all uncleanness" mentioned all over both the Old and New Testaments. For more info. on sexual sins and how to deal with the temptations, both homosexual and heterosexual, see our paper on "Sexual Sins."