

Struggles Christians Face
4. Homosexuality: how should Christians respond?

John Percival

Introduction

- The USNS Harvey Milk
- Our context in Hong Kong

A serious warning (v9-10)

- *“Do not be deceived...”*

A great forgiveness (v11)

- *“But you were washed...”*

A new identity (v11)

- *“And that is what some of you were...”*

Application

- The need for **clarity**
- The need for **compassion**
- The need for **community**
- The need for **wisdom**

1 Corinthians 6v9-11 (NIV)

⁹ 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^a ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

^{a9} The words ‘*men who have sex with men*’ translate two Greek words that refer to the passive and active participants in homosexual acts.

Some resources (all available on the bookstall)

Sam Allberry, *“Is God anti-gay?”* (Good, short, practical, winsome introduction to the topic. If you read one thing, make this the one.)

Ed Shaw, *“The Plausibility Problem”* (Looks at nine missteps that the church often makes with regard to homosexuality – some have found this the most helpful book they have read on the subject.)

Rachel Gilson, *“Born (again) this way”* (Autobiographical story of coming to Christ and living for him with same-sex attraction; especially good on marriage and singleness and why Jesus is worth it.)

Rosaria Butterfield, *“Secret Thoughts of a Reluctant Convert”* (Highly readable, well-written account of a lesbian activist coming to Christ.)

Kevin DeYoung, *“What does the Bible really teach about homosexuality?”* (More detailed look at the Bible passages involved and answers some common objections.)

Glynn Harrison, *“A better story: God, sex and human flourishing”* (Backs up and looks at the philosophical background and how we got here as a culture.)