

REFERENCED SCRIPTURE PASSAGES IN ELCA DEBATE REGARDING HOMOSEXUALITY

Below are the seven scripture passages that are commonly referenced as speaking negatively against same-sex behavior.

Genesis 19:1-9 – This leads into the explanation for the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. This passage speaks about sexual abuse more broadly than that of homosexual activity. Among the sexual abuses here are rape of men by other men, and the sexual trafficking of women. Also a sin in this passage is the complete lack of hospitality to strangers.

Judges 19:22-25 – This passage is very similar in content to the Genesis text noted above. The men of Gibeah seek the stranger “...so that they might have intercourse with him.” Vs. 22. The same issues noted in Genesis are pertinent here.

Leviticus 18:22 – This verse describes same-sex behavior as an abomination. It is also one of many other commandments and teachings on sexuality that are noted through the whole chapter.

Leviticus 20:13 – This verse outlines punishment for same-sex behavior. This chapter also lists punishments for other sins of a sexual nature.

1 Corinthians 6:9 – References a host of sins, sexual and non-sexual.

1 Timothy 1:10 – Like 1 Cor. 6:9 this references a host of sins, sexual and non-sexual.

Romans 1:18-32 – This is the only passage that labels same-sex behavior among women as immoral (see vs. 26). This appears in a larger context that leads Paul to state that “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23.

There were scripture passages used to advocate for the changes in ELCA ministry policies. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Council has requested a reference of such passages from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Council. Those passages will be shared when the response from the ELCA Church Council is received.