

John Amaechi Steps Out of the Closet

by Bryan Gibson

Recently, I was listening to a radio show, and the topic of conversation centered around John Amaechi, a former professional basketball player, who has now admitted to being gay. One caller to the show, who described himself as a former minister of the gospel, claimed that the Bible nowhere condemns the practice of homosexuality. He went on to say that one passage in the Bible did seem to speak against it (he quoted Leviticus 18:22), but when understood in its “broader context”, it was not a prohibition at all. I must admit, that got me a little fired up, because that is simply not true. The Bible is very clear in its condemnation of this sin, as the following passages will attest. Please read these verses carefully and the comments that follow.

Romans 1:24, 26-27, 32: “For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due...who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

Note the words and phrases used to describe homosexuality: vile, against nature (a simple lesson in anatomy would show that), shameful, error.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11: “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **homosexuals**, nor **sodomites**, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

Despite God’s warning to not be deceived, many have. Read it again. Homosexuals and sodomites will not inherit the kingdom of God—if they continue in their sin. Instead of coming out of the closet, they need to come out of their sin, just as these Corinthians had done—“such **were** some of you.”

Jude 1:7: “as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

If you have any doubts about the phrase, “gone after strange flesh,” read Genesis 19. It clearly refers to the practice of homosexuality. Notice also that homosexuality is put in the class of sexual immorality. This is significant, because any passage that condemns sexual immorality also condemns this specific practice (e.g. **1 Corinthians 6:13-18**; **1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**).

We have no interest in doing what some refer to as “gay bashing”, but we do have an interest in pointing out what the Bible says about this sin. God loves all men, including homosexuals, so much so that He gave His Son to die for them (John 3:16). Remember the passage earlier from 1 Corinthians. Some in the church at Corinth had formerly practiced homosexuality, but after repenting of this sin, they were washed, justified, sanctified (1 Corinthians 6:11). It is our prayer that all who practice homosexuality will follow their example. The answer is not to come out of the closet. The answer is to come out of sin.