

What does the bible say about homosexuality

Olivia Frey



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Essay from the year 2006 in the subject Theology - Biblical Theology, grade: 1,0, University of Vienna (Institut für Anglistik & Amerikanistik), course: VK Introduction to Cultural & Regional Studies, 10 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Moisés Kaufman's play "The Laramie Project" deals with the reactions to the murder of Matthew Shepard in Laramie (Wyoming) in 1998, committed by Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney, who are currently serving life sentences in prison. The case is often considered a hate crime motivated by homophobia because of Matthew's sexual orientation. The play is based on over 200 interviews with inhabitants of the town conducted by the theater company, company members' journal entries, and news reports. Basically there are two groups of people: the ones who condemn the murder and emphasize that 'hate is not a Laramie value' and the others who are convinced that Matthew's 'homosexual lifestyle' was not acceptable or that he even deserved to be killed because he was gay. Some of the opponents of homosexuality are representatives of the Christian church and refer to the Bible when being asked why they think that homosexuality is not normal, i.e. intended by God, and cannot be justified.

For example, the Baptist minister always emphasizes that he is "a Biblicist [...]. The Bible doesn't need [him] to be true. The bible is true whether [he] believe[s] it or not. The word is either sufficient or it is not" (p. 25). His wife also argues that he "has very biblical views about homosexuality [...] he doesn't condone that kind of lifestyle" (p. 27). Once the Baptist minister even says: "I hope that Matthew Shepard as he was tied to that fence, that he had time to reflect on a moment when someone had spoken the word of the Lord to him – and that before he slipped into a coma he had a chance to reflect on his lifestyle" (p. 69).

Moreover, Doug Laws, leader of the Mormon Church in Laramie, states that "God has set boundaries. And [...] our responsibility is to learn. [...] So you study Scripture, you look to your leaders. Then you know what the bounds are. [...], then you sorta get a feel for what's out-of-bounds. [...] A family is defined as one woman and one man and children. That's a family. [...] There is no sexual deviation in the Mormon Church" (p. 25).

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