

Discussion Questions

The Case of Sodom and Gomorrah

1. Why do you think university campus psychiatrists are instructed to ignore risky sexual behavior by their students? What are the long-range implications for the future of our country if this kind of open immorality persists?
2. Look up a few of the twenty-plus times that God uses the example of Sodom and Gomorrah to warn us of the danger of rebelling against him by engaging in open immorality. (Deuteronomy 29:28; 32:32; Isaiah 1:9,10; 3:9; 13:19; Jeremiah 23:14; 49:18; 50:40; Lamentations 4:6; Ezekiel 16:46,48,49,53,55,56; Amos 4:11; Zephaniah 2:9; Matthew 10:15; 11:23,24; Mark 6:11; Luke 10:12; 17:22; II Peter 2:6; Jude 7; Revelation 11:8) Do you see any sort of common theme in these warnings?
3. Do you believe that God warns us because he loves us? Do you believe that he condemns and judges certain behavior out of love for us, and his desire that we live a rich, meaningful life? How have you experienced loving warnings from your parents? How did this benefit and bless your life?
4. Read II Peter 2:1-10, and then discuss how verse 6 fits into the context of the overall theme of verses 1-10. What is the message that the author wishes to convey in verse 6?
5. Why does God condemn the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? Read Genesis 18:20 and Genesis 19. What would you say is the “signature sin” in Sodom? What evidence is there that Sodom has become a city of unbridled evil? What happens to a culture when all restraints on evil are removed?
6. How does God judge the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? What does the fact that all that is left of the cities today is open wilderness and charred rocks a reminder to us of the consequences of unbridled sin? Do you have a positive connotation or a negative connotation of the word “judge”? When have you felt improperly “judged”? When have you been thankful for a fair and balanced “judgment”?
7. Why do you think our society has acknowledged that alcoholism is a bad thing because of the negative health impact it has, while the negative health impact of the gay lifestyle is virtually ignored? Why do you think politicians and commentators are so afraid of commenting today on the health consequences of the gay lifestyle as well as the shortened lifespan for male homosexuals? Why do you think health professionals are virtually silent about the health consequences of anal intercourse (use of the rectum for sexual purposes)? How does Romans 1:27 point to the fact that the linkage between homosexuality and health problems has been widely known for centuries?
8. What advances have gay rights advocates made in the last forty years? How as Christians are we to respond to this? What challenges will Christians be increasingly faced with as this situation worsens? Why is it important to remember the example of Abraham in Hebrew 11:8-10?