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 Hope For Wholeness Referral Ministry

 Referral Ministry of ROCK-Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana

**THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *And He said to the Pharisees, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. Luke 16:15***

### [Abominations in the Bible: Acts, People, or Both?](#)

Abominations in the Bible are spoken of mostly in the Old Testament, but there are some New Testament references, one of which I've used for this month's Meditation Scripture. The New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible defines abomination as: "Something that excites disgust and hatred. The term is applied to heathen gods, idolatry and various pagan practices." Often, abomination is translated detestable, stinking, disgusting, or abhorrent.

In doing research for this article, I found that most of the Scripture references to abominations fall under several different groupings: people who are declared, or make themselves, abominations; acts God declares to be abominations; abomination practices related to idolatry and lawlessness; consequences of practicing abominations; specific instructions by God not to practice abominations.

As it relates to those of us who were in a gay life or who have experienced same-sex attractions, many Christians often have declared that **we** are/were abominations to the Lord because of those attractions or the homosexual practices in which we engaged. But when Scripture was quoted to us, it was spoken incorrectly. Leviticus 18:22 states, "You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination." Because of this verse, many Christians have said that we as persons are the abominations, but that is not what the text says. "...It is an abomination." The act of a man lying with another man is the abomination, not the men themselves. This should be good news to the gay population and Christians with unwanted same-sex issues, as many have felt that God has abandoned them because of their attractions. I've known for many years this is the case, that God was not saying the persons are the abomination. Though at the same time, I didn't realize there are so many passages where people are themselves declared to be abominations, or they make themselves abominations by their own actions.

I could render myself an abomination by touching any number of things that God had declared unclean as referenced in Leviticus 11:43 and Leviticus 20:25. But I could also be declared by God to be an abomination making my son or daughter pass through fire; practicing divination or witchcraft; interpreting omens; being a sorcerer, medium, or spiritist; casting a spell or calling up the dead. (Deuteronomy 18:9-12) Anyone who acted unjustly before God is called an abomination. (Deuteronomy 22:5) A crooked man is an abomination before God, (Proverbs 3:32) as are the perverse in heart (Proverbs 11:20), lying lips (Proverbs 12:22), the proud in heart (Proverbs 16:5), he who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous (Proverbs 17:15), he who devises folly (Proverbs 24:9), and "An unjust man is abominable to the righteous, and he who is upright in the way is abominable to the wicked." Proverbs 29:27

Then there are things or acts that God has declared abominations: touching anything declared unclean by God (Leviticus 7:21); denying God by our deeds (Titus 1:15,1); bringing the hire of a harlot or the wages of a male prostitute into the house of the Lord (Deuteronomy 23:18); having haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness, and one who spreads strife among brothers (Proverbs 6:16-19); a false balance (Proverbs 11:1); the sacrifice of the wicked and the way of the wicked (Proverbs 15:8,9); evil plans (Proverbs 15:26); wicked acts committed by kings (Proverbs 16:12); the sacrifice of the wicked (Proverbs 21:27).

In His word, God has connected abominations to idolatry and lawlessness. In 2 Chronicles 15:8, Asa removed the idols of abomination from the land of Judah, Benjamin and Ephraim. In Deuteronomy 7:25, the Israelites were instructed by God to burn in the fire graven images and idols that were abominations to Him, and to leave behind the gold and silver that was on them. And in 1 Peter 4:3, he declares, "For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable (lawless) idolatries."

Finally, there are numerous Biblical passage which address the consequences of practicing abominations before the Lord: their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone (Revelations 21:8); being struck by the edge of the sword for seducing other people towards idolatry (Deuteronomy 13:12-15); banishment from the new Jerusalem (Revelations 21:27); God will deal in wrath, having no pity and ignoring the cries of those who have filled their land with violence and provoked Him repeatedly (Ezekiel 8:17,18); a man's righteous deeds will not be remembered and he will die, when he turns from his righteousness towards iniquity and the abominations of wicked men (Ezekiel 18:24); God makes Israel's land a desolation and a waste because of their abominations they have done (Ezekiel 33:29); among others.

Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the prophets. Two of His declarations should sum up our position before God so that we neither become nor are declared an abomination before Him. The first is from Matthew 22:37-40 when Jesus responded to a lawyer of the Pharisees who asked what is the great commandment, by saying, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." The second passage is John 14:15,

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” Our obedience to God is our demonstration of our love for Him. If we keep Him first above all else, seeking His kingdom and His righteousness, there will be no room for abominations in our lives.

### **Responses From You**

From a sister in IN: Thank you, Daniel. The Word of God is our life line.

From a brother in NC: (a portion of his message) Dear Daniel, good to hear from you. If I don't read every day, I do talk to Jesus and His words come to remembrance.

From a brother in Louisville: Daniel, that's a great word about "The Word." I appreciate you sharing it often, and I try to when I feel something may inspire others. We have to hold fast to the truth during a time when many try to create their own truths. Press on Daniel, continue to share and God will bring the harvest.

From a sister in Louisville: I love the Word of God, and I love this message.

### **Upcoming Ministry Meetings**

Family & Friends Group: Tues, Mar 28, 2017; Tues, Apr 11, 2017; Tues, Apr 25, 2017

Overcomers Group: Thurs, Apr 6, 2017; Thurs, Apr 20, 2017

### **Upcoming Monthly Prayer Initiatives**

Louisville Prayer Breakfast, Wednesday, April 5, 2017 7:00-8:30am Ramada Inn on Zorn Ave at I-71 in Louisville \$6.00 for continental breakfast. Everyone invited to attend. April speaker is Heather Sewell of Orphan Care Alliance

1 Voice Prayer Movement, Friday, April 7, 2017 6:00pm at St Stephen Church, 1018 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Louisville. Everyone invited to attend

### **Upcoming Speaking Engagements**

New Life Church, Goose Creek Rd in Louisville. 4 Wednesdays: 4/12/17, 4/19/17, 4/26/17, 5/3/17. Series on Biblical Sexuality. Topics covered include: The Problem of Human Sexuality and What to do About It; Sexual Purity; Homosexuality; The Beauty of Sex in Marriage. Class runs from April 12 – May 3, 2017 in the sanctuary.

If you do not wish to receive the Abba's Delight Ministry Newsletter any longer, please let me know. If you do wish to continue to receive it, please be certain to put our email address in your address book, so that this mailing does not go to your spam, and report to your carrier. Thank you.

***Now unto Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25***