ONE PAGE CHEAT SHEETS
FOR ALL SIX CLOBBER PASSAGES

- GENESIS 19
- LEVITICUS 18 AND 20
- ROMANS 1
- 1 CORINTHIANS 6
- 1 TIMOTHY 1
Greetings Friend!

Thanks for downloading my free resource: UNCLOBBER ONE PAGE CHEAT SHEETS.

In this free PDF, I’ve distilled some of the major ideas from my book as it relates to the six Clobber Passages, giving you a quick one-stop shop for understanding how the Christian church has historically misused the Bible when it comes to homosexuality.

Each page below covers a different passage by outlining:

1) How it’s traditionally been used to Clobber LGBTQ people
2) Why I think that’s been a misuse
3) A better way to understand the Clobber Passages

By no means is this comprehensive—for that, I recommend reading the entire chapter devoted to each passage in my book, UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality.

This is a free resource, so please feel empowered to share the link on the final page and help others know that God fully loves, accepts, welcomes, and celebrates LGBTQ individuals!

Love and light to you,

Colby MARTIN
author of UnClobber
“The LORD has found the cries of injustice so serious that the LORD sent us to destroy it.” -Genesis 19:13

**Traditional interpretation used to Clobber gay people**
- God destroyed these ancient cities because of their rampant sinfulness.
- Central to their iniquities was homosexuality, evidenced by the men of Sodom wanting to have sex with the male/angelic visitors.

**Passage Recap**

**Justification for Discrimination**
- LGBTQ individuals are a threat to the well being of society.
- God destroyed cities for it, and God still punishes societies today that tolerate LGBTQ activity.

**Why that’s a misuse of this passage**
- The male characters in the story are not gay. They are power hungry monsters who wanted to gang-rape foreigners.
- The Bible explains the “sins of Sodom” for us in multiple places.
- Homosexuality is never mentioned. Rather, the focus is on pride and failure to show hospitality.

**Passage Recap**

**It’s not about Homosexuality**

**The Bible explains this story for us**
- The Bible explains the “sins” of Sodom for us multiple places.
- Homosexuality is never mentioned.

**Know Our Calling**
- Israel was called to be a people who embodied hospitality and sought justice for the oppressed. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was a story passed on as a warning should they forget their calling.

**Embrace Radical Hospitality**
- In what ways do we today neglect the call to radical hospitality? May we always open ourselves up to the needs of the outsiders, the marginalized, and the outcast.

“Other cultures had Genesis 19 type stories, aka, “divine beings visit wicked cities and destroy them.” See: Baucis and Philemon.
**Passage Recap**

Two verses in Levitical law declare a specific type of same-sex activity between two men as toevah (in Hebrew), a.k.a. an "abomination."

**Justification for Discrimination**

- Used as the basis for an OT ban against any/all same-sex sex acts.
- If God called it “sinful” back then, then surely it will always be so.
- "Abomination" means vile, gross, subhuman. This word has armed the church with justification to see LGBTQ individuals as “less than.”

**Bad Translation**

- The Hebrew word (toevah) did not imply, “vile, gross, or subhuman.”
- Toevah was about a violation of cultural boundaries, not objective offenses that are inherently wrong.

**Not Universal**

- The prohibition is about a specific act, not any/all same-sex activity.
- No prohibition against lesbians.

**How is this for us?**

- Leviticus was written for the Jewish people as they entered the promised land. Not for us, 3,000 years later.

**Sacred Calling**

- The idea of Leviticus was that Israel was to live differently from those around them when they entered the promised land. This was a calling to be holy, "set apart," so as to reveal to the world the true heart and nature of God.

**Living Holy Today**

- This calling remains for us today. We are now the lights of the world. What might it look like to live differently from the culture around us?

"When it comes to questioning the sinfulness of people born with same sex attraction, or the sinfulness of a gay couple living together in a loving relationship, these two verses in Leviticus simply do not help. They are not trying to answer those questions."

Learn more in Chapter 6

**Fun Fact:**

Moses acknowledged to Pharaoh that the Jewish worship of Yahweh was “toevah” (an abomination) to the Egyptians.
Paul describes both men and women who turned their back on God and exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.

PASSAGE RECAP
- Paul describes both men and women who turned their back on God and exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.
- Lesbians are finally mentioned (and equally condemned).
- Homosexuality is a broken state that is a result of people turning their back on God and chasing their own desires.

JUSTIFICATION FOR DISCRIMINATION
- Used as Biblical support for labeling homosexuality as "unnatural."
- Lesbians are finally mentioned (and equally condemned).
- Homosexuality is a broken state that is a result of people turning their back on God and chasing their own desires.

RIPPED OUT OF CONTEXT
- These two verses are part of a larger thing Paul was doing in Romans 1, which was part of a larger thing he was doing with the letter altogether: attempting to unify Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome.
- The point of this passage was to expose Jewish prejudice against Gentiles and level the playing field, so as to bring everyone together.

NOT PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE
- These aren’t Paul's beliefs on the sinfulness of homosexuality. He borrowed rhetoric from common Jewish sources which were originally written to be anti-Gentile.

Why that’s a misuse of this passage

RESTORE INTENT
- This clobber passage was part of a larger effort from Paul to unify Christians in Rome who were fractured along ethnic lines.
- We have to know why Paul wrote Romans (to bring unity) or we'll never understand these two verses. A simple reading isn't enough.

OWNING PREJUDICE
- The church needs to bring to the surface its long-held prejudice against LGBTQ individuals.
- Once named/owned we can repent & begin efforts for reconciliation.

“The males traded natural sexual relations with females and burned with lust for each other.” -Romans 1:27

ROMANS 1
Abandoning what is Natural

“In a tragic twist, these words—originally written in an attempt to unify two fractured groups—have been misused to justify the division and support the enmity between the church and the LGBTQ community.”

Learn more in Chapter 8

FUN FACT:
Early church fathers interpreted Paul’s “unnatural sex” to be sex-acts that were non-procreative (not “same-sex” acts).
“Do not be deceived... male prostitutes, sodomites... will not inherit the Kingdom of God.” -1 Corinthians 6:9

**PASSAGE RECAP**
- In two different letters, Paul writes out a list of sins and includes “homosexuality” as something that excludes you from the Kingdom.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR DISCRIMINATION**
- This makes the Bible “clear” that homosexuality is a sin.
- Not worse than other sins, perhaps, but nonetheless still sinful.
- Same-sex behavior is incompatible with a life lived for God.

**TRANSLATION ISSUES**
- Translators can’t decide on how to handle two Greek words—one of which Paul seemed to create (making it hard to know for certain).
- Some translations go with behavior (aka, “men who have sex with men”), others go with identity (aka, “homosexuals”).

**SPECIFIC, NOT GENERAL**
- Paul was naming specific kinds of same-sex behavior, he was not saying that any/all sex acts between two men/women are sinful
- A person’s sexual identity is not what is at stake in these verses.

**WHAT’S REALLY AT STAKE**
- These two poorly mistranslated words refer to those who exploit others for sex, who sell themselves for sex, or where there is an imbalance in power.
- If there is exploitive or transactional sex between two people of the same gender, that is incompatible with life in the Kingdom.

**CONSISTENCY**
- Let’s call all people—regardless of their sexual orientation—to a life of equity, mutual respect, and love. May all people strive for a healthy sexual ethic together.

**FUN FACT:**
The ancient world used the term “eunuch” to name castrated males and males who showed no sexual interest in women.

“Learn more in Chapter 10”

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“The next time someone asks you, “do you think homosexuality is a sin,” try responding with, “do you think heterosexuality is a sin?” This often helps people think through a “sometimes yes/sometimes no” sexual ethic for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation.”
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