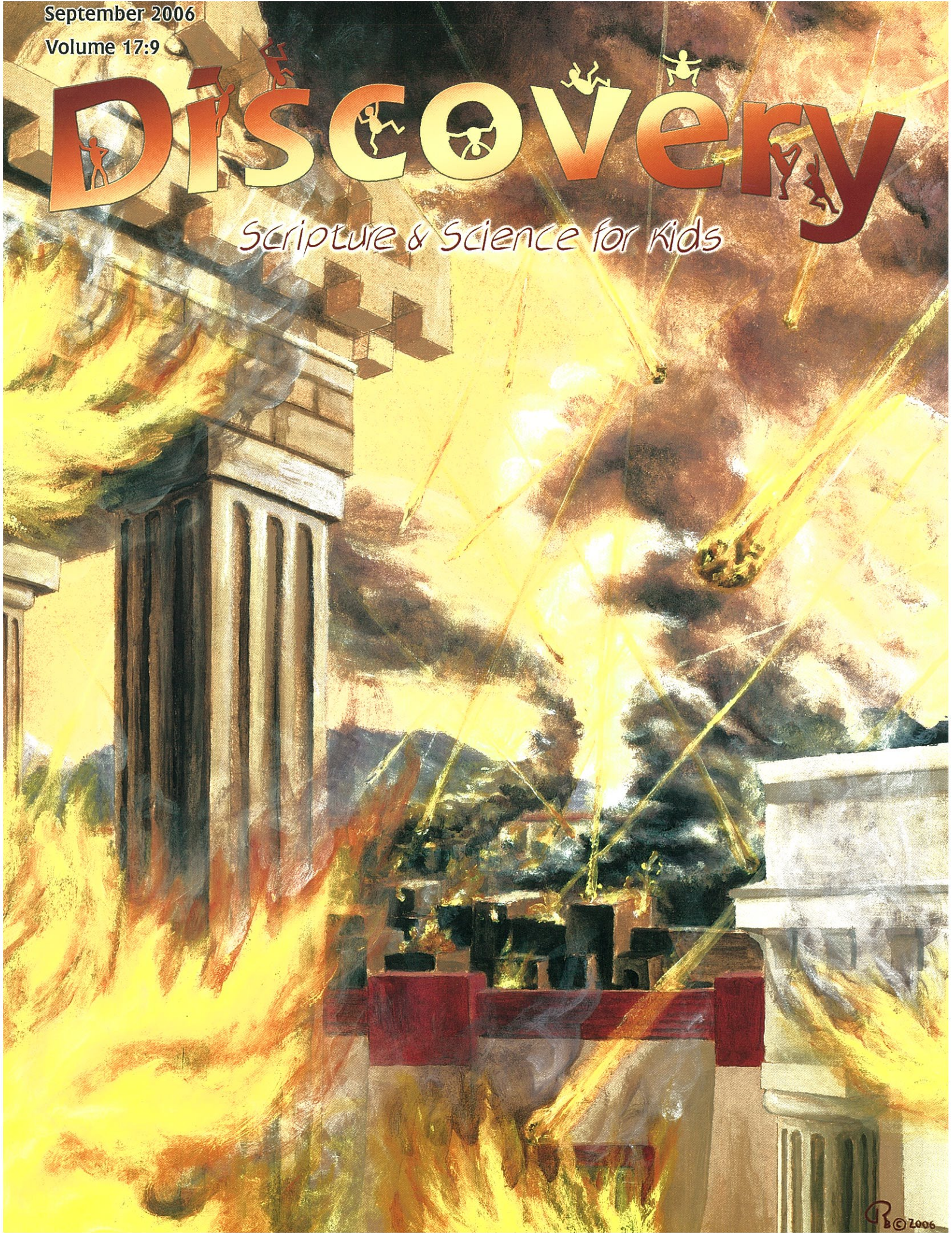


September 2006

Volume 17:9

Discovery

Scripture & Science for Kids



HOMOSEXUALITY

BY DAVE MILLER

God has given us His written Word. He wants us to make the right choices. When He created the first human beings, He made a man and a woman—a male and a female (Genesis 1:27). He made a woman for the man because “it was not good for man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). The

man needed a helper that fit him (Genesis 2:18,20). Adam and Eve, as husband and wife, would have children so the Earth would be pop-

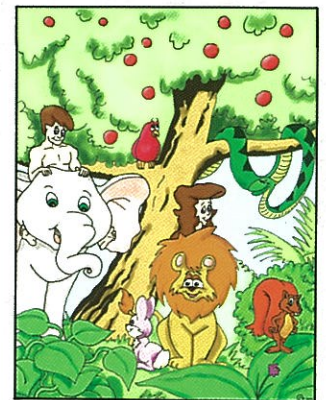
ulated with people (Genesis 1:28). Here we see God’s plan for people. God did not make two men. He did not make two women. He made one man for one woman. They were to be married and have children.

Sexual relations between two men or between two women is called homosexuality. Homosexuality is a sin according to the Bible. God is displeased with homosexuals and those who support homosexuality.

Concerning homosexuality, the apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

*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 (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).*

When Paul said, “such **were** some of you,” he proved that homosexuals can be forgiven. He also showed that a person can **stop** sinning in this way. That is why Paul told the young Timothy that “sodomites,” like murderers, liars, and kidnapers, are doing things that are “contrary to sound doctrine.” One cannot do them and still be a “righteous person” (1 Timothy 1:9-10).



One of the sinful acts practiced by homosexuals is called “sodomy.” As you might have guessed, that word comes from the name of a town in the Bible—Sodom. The city of Sodom was full of homosexuals.

Sometimes, when a person tells others that he or she is homosexual, it is called “coming out of the closet.” The citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah were definitely “out of the closet”—their sinful lifestyle was well known, and they were proud of it. Unfortunately, they would not repent, so God destroyed them.

Two angels, messengers from God, visited Sodom to warn the few righteous people about the destruction of the city (read Genesis 19). The angels, who appeared as men, stayed in the home of Lot, Abraham’s nephew. On the evening of their visit, some of the men of Sodom tried to get Lot to send the messengers outside. These wicked men wanted to force the messengers to have sexual relations. The customs of the day, and common courtesy, demanded that Lot protect his guests, so Lot refused to let them take the two men. When Lot refused, the evil men tried to attack Lot!



The angels saved Lot and struck the men of Sodom blind. They also convinced Lot and some of his family members to leave the city. God then rained fire and brimstone down on Sodom and Gomorrah. The fate of the “twin cities” shows that God hates the sin of homosexuality. Jude 7 tells us that those who lost their lives in the fires at Sodom and Gomorrah will also be punished in eternity, because they did not repent of their homosexuality. This should not surprise us, however, because God has always been serious about punishing homosexuality. Under the Old Law, homosexuality was a capital crime that required death (see Leviticus 20:13).

Even though God hates homosexuality, He still loves those who sin in this way (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). In fact, God loves them so much, that He sent His Son Jesus to die for their sins, and the sins of the whole world. Any sinful person, including a homosexual, who repents and turns to God can be saved and live forever with God in heaven (read Acts 2:37-40).



Artist rendition of the burning of Sodom.

The Original Sodomites

BY CALEB COLLEY

Is HOMOSEXUALITY



BY DAVE MILLER

You face it everywhere. In movies and on TV. In the news. Maybe even in school. More and more people are talking about homosexuality—being “gay.” For most of America’s history, almost everybody believed homosexuality to be sinful. It was even against the law. But more and more Americans have come to believe that homosexuality ought to be accepted as okay. Even though homosexuality is wrong, someone probably has told you that you are supposed to accept homosexuals as normal. You are probably being made to feel that if you do not accept homosexuality, then you are not compassionate or kind. You may even be called “homophobic,” which means you fear homosexuals.

You have probably also been told, or heard people say, that a person cannot help being “gay.” Many people today say that homosexuals are “born that way.” They claim that

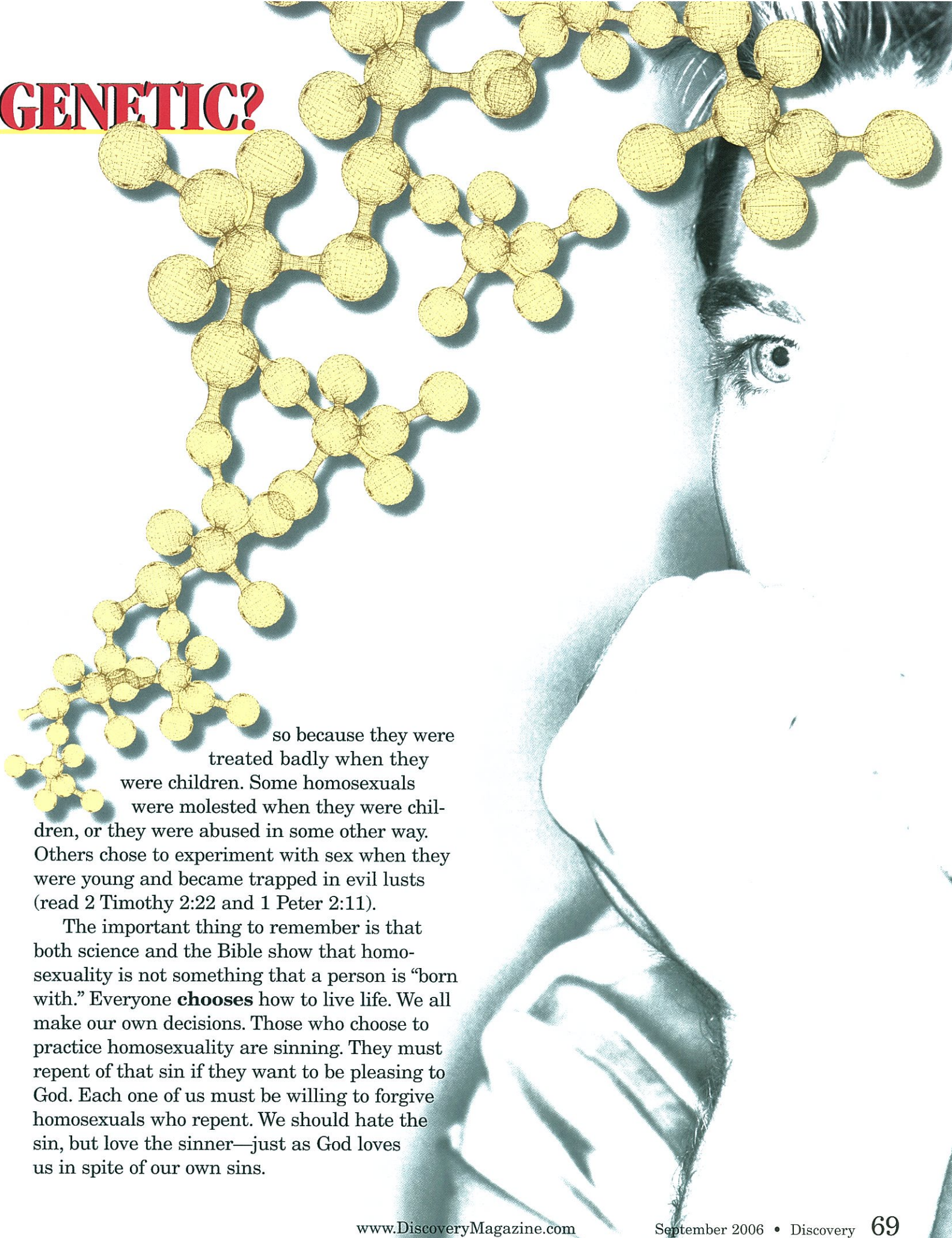
homosexuals do not **choose** to be gay, in the same way that we do not choose our skin color or our nationality. In fact, many people today believe that homosexuality is genetic—that it is due to a person’s genes. They say homosexuality is hereditary, which means a person inherits it from his parents or grandparents.

But that is not true! The actual evidence shows that homosexuality is due to the decisions that a person makes. Did you know that scientists recently mapped out the whole human genome (GEE-nome)? That means that they identified every gene that is found in the cells of the human body. And guess what? They found no “gay gene.” Think about it: if homosexuality is genetic, and homosexuals cannot produce children, then the “homosexual gene” would gradually die out. There is no scientific evidence that homosexuality is genetic.

We know from the Bible that homosexuality is not a matter of genetics. Here are three reasons: First, God would not condemn a person for something that he or she could not help (read 1 Corinthians 10:13). The Bible would not condemn an action over which a person has no control (like breathing or being born as a brown person or white person). Second, when Paul wrote Christians in Corinth, he mentioned that some of them had been homosexuals before they became Christians (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). But they had changed and given up that lifestyle. They no longer practiced homosexuality. So a person can choose to stop being a homosexual. Third, many practicing homosexuals in America today have repented, and left the homosexual lifestyle. They are proof that homosexuality is not genetic.

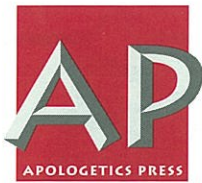
The fact is that, like all sin, homosexuality is a behavior—an action—that a person can choose to do or choose not to do. It seems that some who like to engage in homosexuality do

GENETIC?



so because they were treated badly when they were children. Some homosexuals were molested when they were children, or they were abused in some other way. Others chose to experiment with sex when they were young and became trapped in evil lusts (read 2 Timothy 2:22 and 1 Peter 2:11).

The important thing to remember is that both science and the Bible show that homosexuality is not something that a person is “born with.” Everyone **chooses** how to live life. We all make our own decisions. Those who choose to practice homosexuality are sinning. They must repent of that sin if they want to be pleasing to God. Each one of us must be willing to forgive homosexuals who repent. We should hate the sin, but love the sinner—just as God loves us in spite of our own sins.



APOLOGETICS PRESS, INC.
 230 Landmark Drive
 Montgomery, AL 36117
 (800) 234-8558 (Orders)
 (334) 272-8558
 www.DiscoveryMagazine.com
 Copyright © 2006 All Rights Reserved

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Montgomery, AL
 Permit No. 513

Editor: Kyle Butt, M.A.
 Associate Editor: Eric Lyons, M.Min.
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Cover:
 Rob Baker

Modern America and **HOMOSEXUALITY**

BY CALEB COLLEY

Homosexuality is a very big issue—especially in America. Many Americans are trying to force all members of society to accept homosexuality as normal, good, and even beneficial. These people are called “gay-rights activists.” They promote what is called the “gay-rights movement.”

As we have studied in *Discovery* this month, homosexuality is sinful (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). But those who support gay-rights are producing materials aimed at elementary school children. These materials promote “respect” for the practice of sodomy. Many teachers in elementary and middle schools are trying to teach their students to accept homosexuality using words like tolerance and diversity.

Even many religious organizations are having difficulty deciding whether to allow homosexuals to be leaders in their churches. Some so-called “Christian” universities have teachers who promote gay-rights. Even though these teachers may not march in parades supporting homosexuality, they refuse to teach that homosexuality is sinful and wrong.

The gay-rights movement has tried to convince us that there are many

more homosexuals in America than there really are. Homosexuals are a very, very small percentage of American households. But many

television shows have several gay characters. And many movies show homosexuality as something good or funny, but rarely as sinful.

Gay-rights activists want to convince us that because homosexuals are “victims,” they should receive special treatment. They say that just as people cannot choose to be right-handed or left-handed, homosexuals do not choose to be homosexual. So, activists say, we should treat homosexuals just as we treat everybody else—not as people involved in a sinful lifestyle.

One important battle in the gay-rights controversy is over homosexual marriage. Those who support homosexuality are saying that homosexuals should be able to marry each other and adopt children. But we must always remember that God did not create people as homosexuals. Homosexuals have made a sinful and tragic **choice**, so we should urge them to repent. We must not let people in our society change our minds about homosexuality, since God’s Word on the subject never changes.



ANSWERS

TRUE OR FALSE: 1. F; 2. F; 3. T; 4. T; 5. F; 6. T; 7. T; 8. F; 9. F; 10. F. **COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES:** 1. homosexuals, sodomites, were; 2. male, female; 3. wife, one. **CROSSWORD:** 1. woman; 2. Timothy; 3. church; 4. gay; 5. Adam; 6. Corinth; 7. Sodom; 8. brimstone; 9. sodomy.

Yearly Subscription Fees in U.S. Funds Only • United States of America: Individual rate: \$12 each • Bulk rate (at least 5 to same address): \$8.50 each.
 Club rate (at least 10 to different addresses paid together): \$10 • Home-school discount 10% off above rates • Canada: \$16 each (bulk: \$12) • Overseas Airmail: \$21 each (bulk: \$14)