

Johanna Wikberg



Translated by B.J. Woodstein



EKHO Göteborg
KRISTNA HBTQ-PERSONER

Christian and Gay - Totally Okay!
© Johanna Wikberg 2024

Original title: Kristen och homosexuell - så funkar det!
Translation by B.J. Woodstein

Published 2024 by EKHO Göteborg with support from
Riksförbundet EKHO.

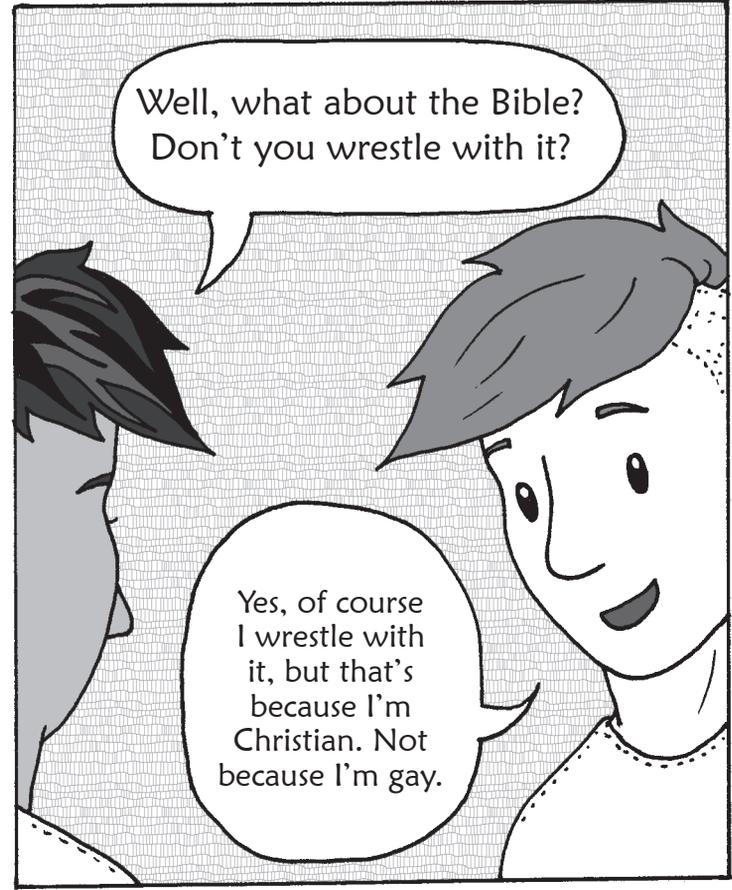
Printed by Lasertryck, Denmark

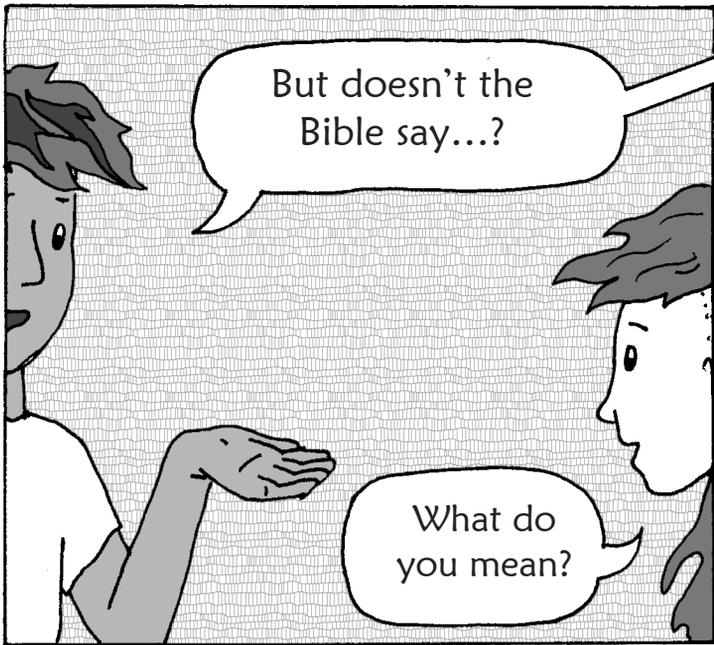
EKHO Göteborg
Stora Badhusgatan 6
411 21 Göteborg
Sweden

www.ekho.se

ISBN: 978-91-527-9807-2

CHRISTIAN AND GAY -TOTALLY AND GAY OKAY!





I mean, like:

Leviticus 18:22¹ You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

Leviticus 20:13 If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death; their blood is upon them.

Romans 1:26-27 For this reason God gave them up to degrading passions. Their women exchanged natural intercourse for unnatural, and in the same way also the men, giving up natural

intercourse with women, were consumed with passion for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the due penalty for their error.

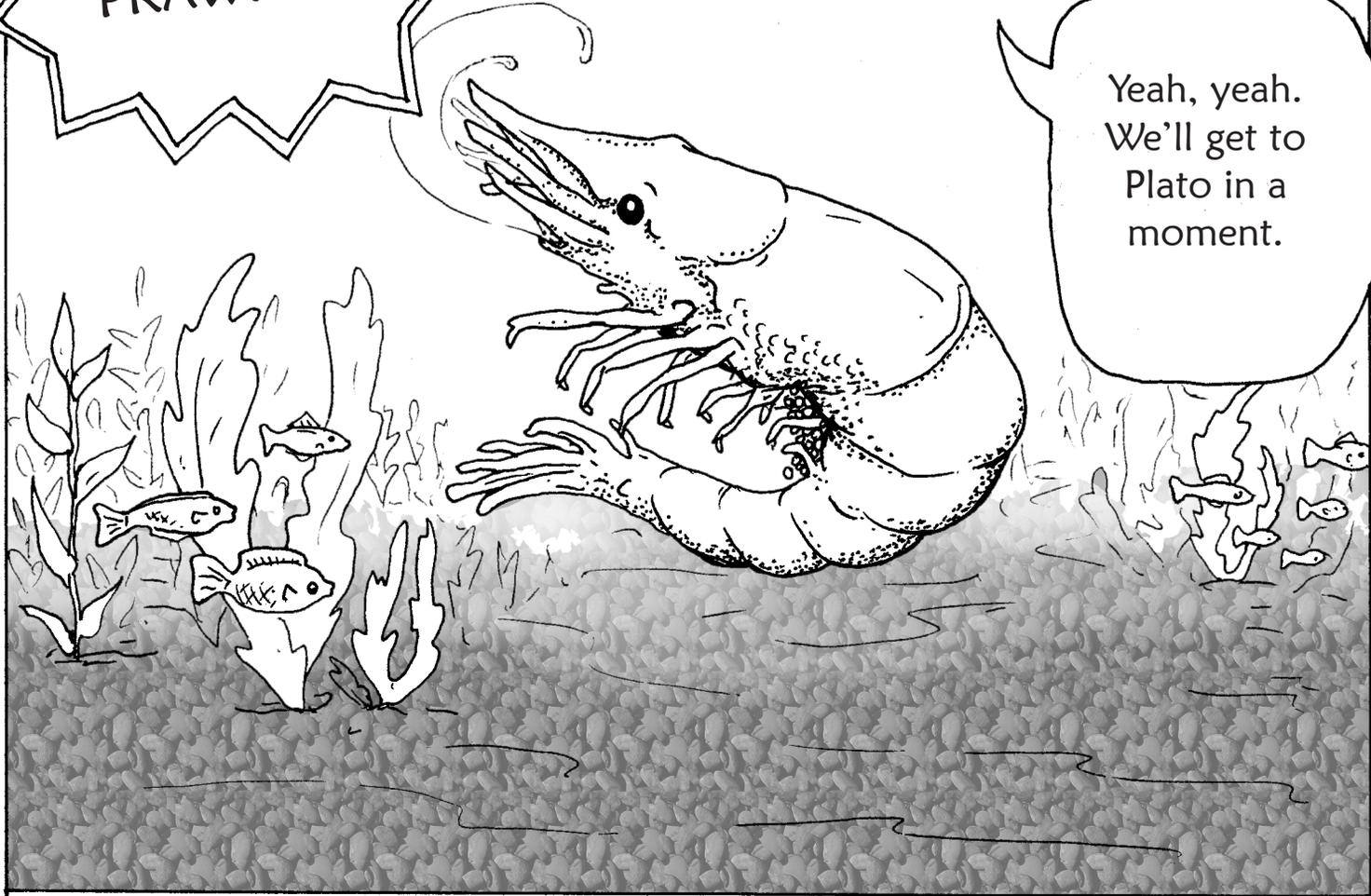
1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, sodomites...

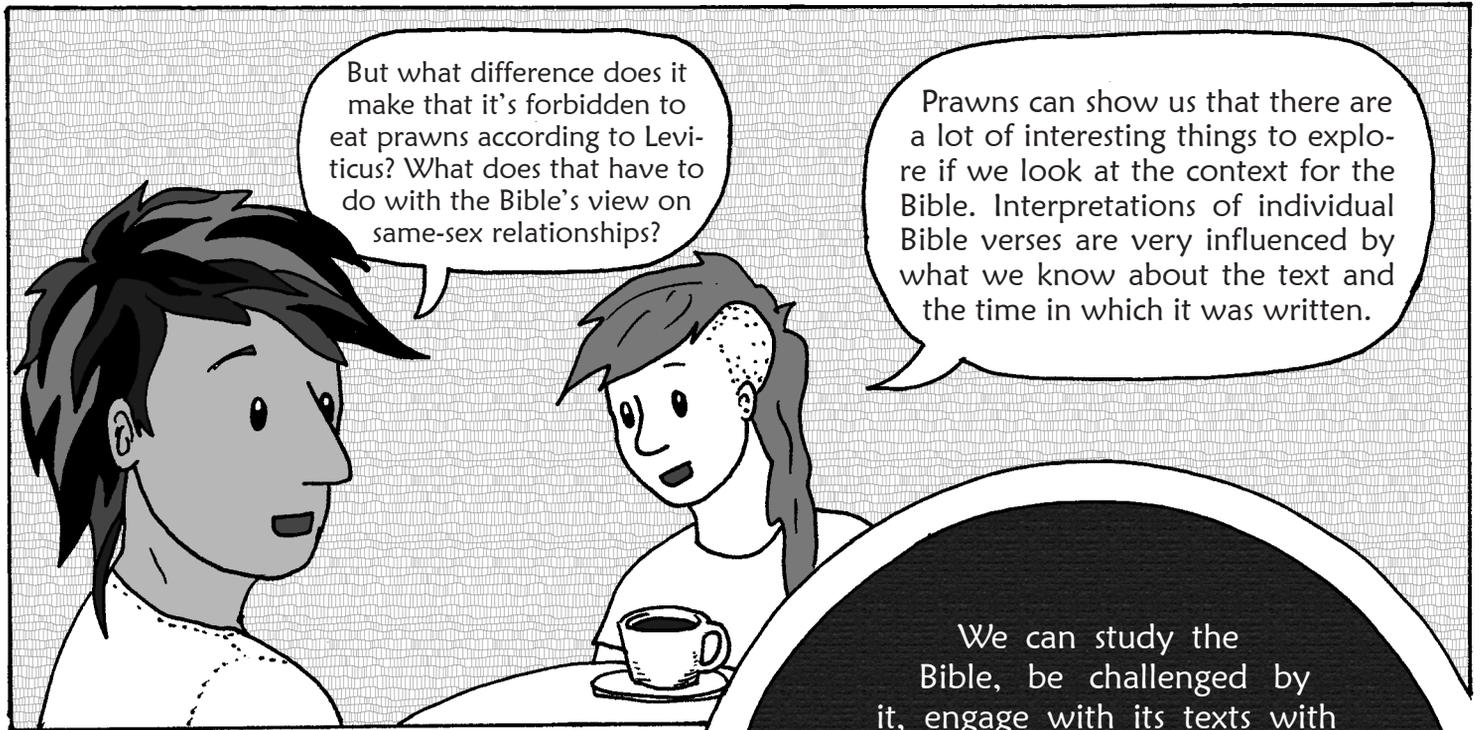
1 Timothy 1:10 ...fornicators, sodomites, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching.

Okay, I'll explain how I see it. Let's start at the beginning, with prawns.

PRAWNS?

Yeah, yeah. We'll get to Plato in a moment.

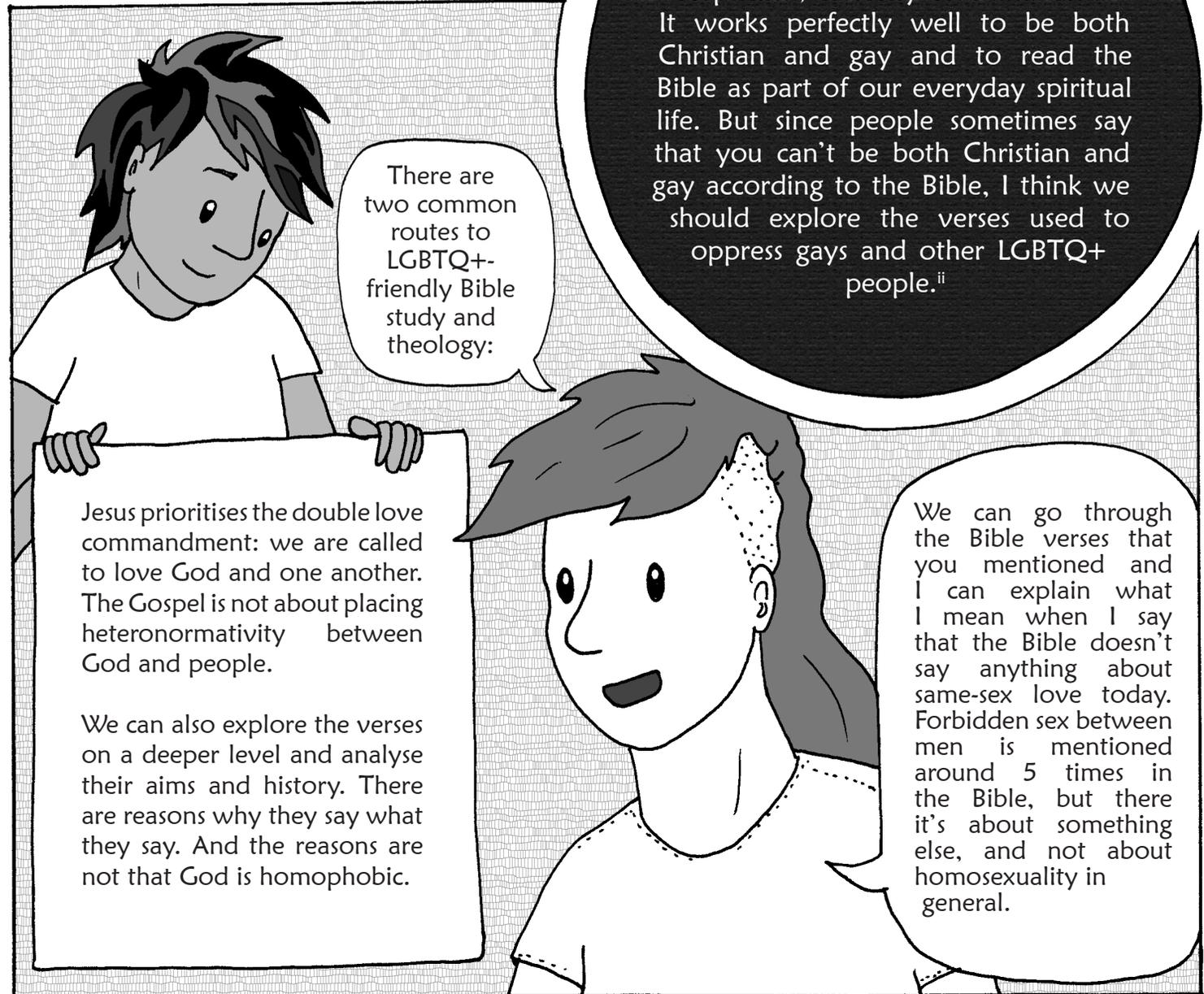




But what difference does it make that it's forbidden to eat prawns according to Leviticus? What does that have to do with the Bible's view on same-sex relationships?

Prawns can show us that there are a lot of interesting things to explore if we look at the context for the Bible. Interpretations of individual Bible verses are very influenced by what we know about the text and the time in which it was written.

We can study the Bible, be challenged by it, engage with its texts with scepticism, curiosity or enthusiasm. It works perfectly well to be both Christian and gay and to read the Bible as part of our everyday spiritual life. But since people sometimes say that you can't be both Christian and gay according to the Bible, I think we should explore the verses used to oppress gays and other LGBTQ+ people.ⁱⁱ



There are two common routes to LGBTQ+-friendly Bible study and theology:

Jesus prioritises the double love commandment: we are called to love God and one another. The Gospel is not about placing heteronormativity between God and people.

We can also explore the verses on a deeper level and analyse their aims and history. There are reasons why they say what they say. And the reasons are not that God is homophobic.

We can go through the Bible verses that you mentioned and I can explain what I mean when I say that the Bible doesn't say anything about same-sex love today. Forbidden sex between men is mentioned around 5 times in the Bible, but there it's about something else, and not about homosexuality in general.