



SHARING JESUS WITH...

THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

WHAT DOES THE LGBTQIA+ MEAN?

The initialism LGBTQIA+ has been used since the 1990's and is an umbrella term for certain sexualities and sexual identities of a variety of different groups. It is often shortened to LGBT or LGBTQ. The letters stand for; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual. The plus sign just stands for other subgroups that may come along with it.

What are other terms used by LGBTQ Community?

The language is changing and growing quickly when it comes to the LGBTQ community. Here are some recently new terms.

Cisgender(ed)—Refers to a person whose gender aligns with the sex assigned at someone's birth.

Gender-fluid—A person who does not identify with a single fixed gender. Their gender is subject to change.

Non-binary—A person who does not identify exclusively as a man or woman. They may identify as both male and female.

Transitioning—The process of someone undergoing physical changes to their bodies by surgery, hormones, or therapy to align their physical body to what they see as their gender.

Churches that see the LGBTQ community as normal and not a sinful are typically called "**LGBTQ Affirming churches.**" Traditional churches that see homosexual behavior as sinful are called "**non-affirming churches.**" The "**Affirming**" groups are also sometimes called "**Revisionist.**" There are two prominent groups in the US among many. The **Gay Christian Network (GCN)** led by Justin Lee and **The Reformation Project** led by Matthew Vines.

WHAT DO LGBTQ AFFIRMING CHURCHES BELIEVE?

Many in the LGBTQ community that still want to hold to some part of their Christian beliefs will rewrite their church history, create a alternative interpretation for biblical texts, or just ignore and downplay the authority of the Word of God.

- The church has perverted the issue and made several texts in the Bible all about homosexuality, when it's really no big deal.
- Genesis 19, Sodom and Gomorrah was not really about Homosexuality, but more about rape and the inhospitality of the cities.

Approximately 7.2% of the USA identifies as LGBTQ according to a 2022 poll.

The same poll discovered that 19.7% of Gen Z (1997-2011) identify as LGBTQ. That is ~ 1 of 5 people!

Similar polls in the 1980's had approximately 3.1% of the USA identifying as LGBTQ.

"Never put your identity in any part of your sinful nature"

- Sam Allberry

"Outsiders say our hostility towards gays—not just opposition to homosexual politics and behaviors, but disdain for gay individuals—has become virtually synonymous with the Christian faith."

—David Kinnaman
Unchristian (2007).

In other words, according to his research, if you say, 'I am a Bible-believing Christian,' you might as well say, 'And by the way, I hate gays.'"

- Sean McDowell

Did people in the first century know of what we recognize today as same-sex orientation or long-term relationships?

Yes! There is plenty of evidence dating back to the fifth century BC of an orientation.

Examples can be found in Aristotle, Plato, Parmenides, Soranus, and Aristophanes.

Plato's Symposium

"...each of us is forever seeking the half that will tally with himself.

The man who is a slice of the hermaphrodite [i.e., male-female] sex...will naturally be attracted by women...and women who run after men are of similar descent...But the woman who is a slice of the original female is attracted by other women rather than by men...while men who are slices of the male are followers of the male..."

From Aristophanes

"And so, when they themselves have come to manhood, their love in turn is lavished upon boys. They have no natural inclination to marry and beget children. Indeed, they only do so in deference to the usage of society, for they would just as soon renounce marriage altogether and spend their lives with one another...And so, when this boy lover—or any lover, for that matter—is fortunate enough to meet his other half, they are both so intoxicated with affection, with friendship, and with love, that they cannot bear to let each other out of sight for a single instant. It is such reunions as these that impel men to spend their lives together..."

- Leviticus 18 & 20, don't count today. They are old, and part of the holiness code (Lev. 17-26) which discuss the sacrificial system which has been done away with.
- The New Testament barely mentions anything about it, Jesus never says anything about it, and it was more pervasive in the Roman culture of the day versus the Old Testament times.
- The most common type of homosexuality practiced in first century Rome was pederasty, which involved Roman men with their young boy slaves. That's what the Bible addresses in places.
- The word "homosexual" was added into the RSV Bible translation in 1946 and it has been mistranslated ever since.
- Homosexuality has changed over the centuries. It used to be more abusive and now is seen differently. There are more long-term and loving life long relationships today than was in the Bible.
- The biblical authors didn't understand "sexual orientation" like we do today. They didn't understand the DNA and "science."
- God would not create people with a disposition or desire for the opposite sex if it was not alright in his eyes.

Do affirming churches use a different Bible?

Some might use the "Queen James Bible" published in 2012 which cuts out the eight verses in the Bible that refer to homosexuality.

WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES SAY?

There are way more than just eight passages in the Bible that speak on this issue. The Bible begins with a creation story that places one man with one woman in a marriage and they are two specific genders, male and female. Three of the 10 commandments assume a heterosexual relationship. The language all throughout the Bible assumes a heterosexual marriage.

Genesis 1-2, 19—Is Genesis still Applicable? - Yes!

It all starts in Genesis. Genesis 1& 2 are important as they lay a foundation for the rest of the Bible. Both Jesus and Paul quote from the creation story when they discuss marriage and the issue of Homosexuality. The Gender issue is also addressed here.

In Genesis 19 we have story of Sodom and Gomorrah, two cities that were destroyed by God because of their many sinful actions.

Yada—"to know" used 1058/15 times. — "two daughters" v. 8

The New Testament Comments on this in 2 Peter 2:4-10, Jude 7

Eze 16:49-50—What sins are worthy of absolute death? (See next verses).

Leviticus 18:22, 20:13

The holiness code was practices and regulations for Israel to be separate from the other nations around them. Chapter 18 seems to be different and hone in on the "abominable" practices of the nations.

Multiple verses on incest, only one on homosexuality -> It's all wrong.

EXTRA RESOURCES

BOOKS

Chasing Love,
Sean McDowell

**What does the Bible Really
Teach about Homosexuality?,**
Kevin DeYoung

**Correct, Not Politically
Correct: About Same-Sex
Marriage and Transgenderism,**
Frank Turek

**A Biblical Response to
Homosexuality,**
Sean McDowell, Logos Course

**The Bible and Homosexual
Practice: Texts and
Hermeneutics,** Robert Gagnon

People to Be Loved,
Preston Sprinkle

**Holy Sexuality and
the Gospel,**
Christopher Yuan

**The Gospel Comes with a House
Key,** Rosario Butterfield

A Change in Affection,
Becket Cook

Love Thy Body,
Nancy R. Pearcey

Irreversible Damage,
Abigail Shrier

WEBSITES

robgagnon.net

becketcook.com

smallberry.com

UPCOMING TOPICS

5/28—**Mormonism** (with Guest
Pastor, Brian Boyles)

6/4—**Catholicism**

Matthew 19:1-12

Jesus is brought into the discussion about divorce between the Hillel and Shammai Jews and their reasons for divorce based on Deut. 24:1.

Jesus reaffirms the Gen 1-2 account and adds “the two” (Septuagint).

Romans 1:21-27

Paul brings in the creation account here. Revisionist say “natural relations” refers to natural “to them” but Paul means from natural creation order.

Paul is not talking about pederasty here. Paul names women with women and men with men (not boys). There was no female equivalent of pederasty. Verse 27 makes it clear, “inflamed with lust for one another.” - All forms.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Paul coins a new word “arsenokoitēs” which comes from the Lev. 18 & 20. Literally “men bedders” or “men who bed men.” Malakos “soft” or “effeminate.” Paul means all forms of homosexuality are forbidden both the one playing the male role and the one receiving. If Paul meant pederasty, he could have just used the term already in use for that.

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General tips and suggestions

Be tender and compassionate towards them. Desire to build a relationship with them through love and wanting to help them. Make a point to tell them you do not hate them and make a distinction between them as a person and the issue being discussed.

Is there anything in your life that would hinder them hearing you? Have you shared any gay jokes that would be offensive in the past? Is there anything that you need to seek forgiveness over?

Specific tips and suggestions

Make sure you define terms as you talk. The word “gay” can mean many things in the sense people use it. Some use it as a word to describe their behavior while others use it to describe their “orientation” or identity, but not related to their behavior.

Teach a holistic view about the sexual ethics of the Bible. Make a point that God doesn’t just care about homosexuality, he also cares about divorce, adultery, fornication, and everything else in it.

Discern who you are talking with. Do they claim to be a Christian or just someone who identifies as LGBTQ. If they are not a Christian, I would suggest starting with the gospel first before addressing the topic of homosexuality and Scripture. If they claim to be a Christian take your time and go through the passages in the Bible slowly and help them to see the proper interpretations of the passages.

Prepare to suffer. When you take a stand on this hot cultural topic you need to be ready for what may happen to you when you engage the LGBTQ community. You may be canceled, threatened, or just ignored.

7.2 Percent of U.S. Adults Identify as LGBT

Share of American adults who identify as LGBT, by birth year



- Gen Z (1997-2004)
- Millennials (1981-1996)
- Generation X (1965-1980)
- Baby boomers (1946-1964)
- Traditionalists (before 1946)

