

Question 1: What is Gods stance on LGBTQ?

Have students Read BLOG and then answer the question as a group

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

The LGBTQ "Issue"



The most consistent question I get as a Pastor is my take on LGBTQ. People will say things like, “What is your thought on the LGBT issue?” It is a thoughtful question and I really understand why its getting asked. For years the church has either aligned itself as an open and affirming or not affirming. I want to propose a third option. First, lets get some stuff out of the way though

****please don't read just parts, this post needs to be taken as a whole in order to be fully understood. Anything taken out of context will not suffice for clear understanding****

****I use the term LGBTQ and queer interchangeably. Yes! Queer is actually the politically correct term now****

—WHAT PEOPLE ARE REALLY ASKING—

Hidden within this question is the real question, “Who is saved?” “Can people that identify LGBTQ come to church and worship?” First, deciding who is saved and who is not is far above my pay grade. The Scripture says that we ought to leave judgement to God and Jesus and I think I am fine letting Him judge the hearts of people. Only I can judge my own heart. Another person!? All I can see is what is on the outside, I cannot judge where their heart is in reference to God. Lets leave the judgement to God.

—CHRISTIANS ARE NOT CALLED TO BE THE MORAL POLICE OF SOCIETY—

Why is it that we as Christians have set ourselves up as the moral police of society? Why do we expect non Christians to act Christian. It is like expecting a vegetarian to eat meat. It never made sense to me and I don’t think it is our duty to force our morality onto other people. Do I pray that society would be influenced by the Church? Absolutely. Do I think the Church is the hope of the world? I do. This doesn’t mean that I go out and force others into my cookie cutter version of Christianity. Instead, I consult the baker and let Him mold me into a person that is loving others in the hopes that I would earn the right to be heard from someone that may be hurting or is far from God. I learn to point people to God’s Kingdom. Im not building it. Only the Holy Spirit can do that. But I can point people to God’s Kingdom and it doesn’t need to be with a blow horn.

—LIES THAT CULTURE IS TELLING—

To the person that identifies as LGBTQ I think you are being lied to in two different ways. First, I think media and the queer community has lied to people that identify LGBTQ and made them believe that their sexuality is the most important part about them. It is their identity and who they are. In the words of the great theologian Lady Gaga, “Born this way.”

This is a lie.

You are more than your sexuality. You are a human that is capable of loving, helping, and serving others. Your story is unique and could help someone else get through a hard time. Your sexuality is secondary to the fact that you have purpose here on earth. I personally believe that you are more than your sexuality. I believe you are born in the Image of God and that this is the most important thing about you, not your sexuality.

On the other end, the church will lie to many and say “you can pray the gay away.” That God can rid you of your “gay” tendencies. I find this hard to believe.

—TO THE CHURCH AND LGBTQ COMMUNITY—

To the Church, its okay to hold a traditional view of marriage. Most LGBTQ people will not be shocked. I have many friends that identify their sexuality that way and they are not shocked that I (a Pastor) have a traditional view of marriage. Because guess what. It doesn't change how I view them or love them. Jesus held views, but He held people a lot closer. I think we can do the same.

To the LGBTQ community, do not be shocked when you hear of Christian's that hold a traditional view of marriage. In the same way that I'm not trying to get you to convert to heterosexuality don't try and convert my beliefs. I will still love you regardless of what you believe so please don't break your friendship with me just because I view the Bible one way, it doesn't mean I love you any less, please don't love me any less.

To everyone asking the question, This is not an ISSUE. I hate that language. This is not an ISSUE to debate. It is my friends, family and people in my church. This is people we are talking about and anytime we treat this like an ISSUE we are dehumanizing a person that is created in the Image of God.

So where do I land? What is my stance? Well, I don't stance on people. Whenever we stance we are drawling a line in the sand and I am sick of lines being drawn and people being separated more and more. In the great words of Rodney King amidst the riots in Los Angeles in 1992, "Cant we all just get along?" I really do think it is that easy. I don't think it was ever supposed to be complicated. Jesus said it. Love people. Wherever you are at. Love them.

So here is my third option. Instead of landing on one side of what many call an "issue", i'll land at the foot of the Cross and do whatever I can to keep people in the orbit of God's Spirit. Want to go to church with me? Lets go. Want to get coffee and talk about faith and God, I'd love that. Keeping people in the orbit of God's Spirit is the third option. I think its the only thing that matters.

- 1.) What sticks out to you from this?
- 2.) What is not clear? What are you still wondering?
- 3.) How do you feel about this?

Question 2: Why do I fall into temptation

Read Romans 7 in the Message below and answer questions that are placed throughout

7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”

Q: What does this mean?

Leader insight: It means that the law reveals our sin.

14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

Q: Why does Paul, who is a really spiritual person call himself unspiritual?

Leader insight: Paul is recognizing that we all fall short of Gods glory. In addition he is recognizing his own fallen human nature. He is saying, “We all struggle with sin.”

15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature.[c] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Q: Do you relate with this? How? What is he saying?

Leader insight: He is talking about the battle that goes on inside all of us. That battle of wanting to do good but sometimes we dont do what we know we are supposed to do

Q: Does anyone want to share about a time they knew what they were supposed to do but chose to do the opposite or something different?

21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Q: *So...Why do we fall into temptation as Christians?*

Leader insight: A part of it is we are physical and spiritual beings. We are created as physical humans but spiritual souls. There is a battle inside of us. God is trying to guide us towards what is right and we also have our free will that sometimes wants to do the opposite of what God wants. Inside of us we are still learning to battle our sin nature.