

Series: Let's Talk About It

Sermon: LGBTQ+

Passage: various

Illustration:

Need: The issues of the LGBTQ+ community has become one of the most explosive topics of discussion in our nation and within the church.

I. God created and blessed human sexuality. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7-8, 18, 20-25; Mark 10:6-8)

- God designed human sexual expression = covenant relationship between a man & a woman.
- Sin broken human sexuality = adultery, fornication, incest, polygamy, homosexuality, pedophilia, bestiality, prostitution, pornography, etc.
- Any sexual expression apart from that within the biblical marriage relationship is considered sinful, immoral, and contrary to God's holy purpose for humanity.
- Gen. 19:1-19; Lev. 18:22; Lev. 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:10; Rom. 1:26-27

II. Modern Social Shift

- The Sexual Revolution of the 1960s has given rise to celebration of, almost, any form of human sexual expression and practice, as well as social activism on behalf of those identifying with these expressions.
- LGBTQ+ is an umbrella initialism that stands for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer/Questioning (The + stands for "others, allies, pansexual, polysexual, asexual, etc.")
- Media (news, movies, tv, print, social, etc.) - bias, bombardment, celebration, inflation.
- Political movement - political correctness, marriage redefined (Obergefell vs. Hodges 2015), public education, gender wars, hate speech, protected status, etc.

III. Modern Theological Shift

- Most Christian denominations have some representation in homosexual affirmation.
- "Gay Christian" movement, ministries, social media & online communities, authors, etc. Justin Lee & Matthew Vines are two popular figures in the "Gay Christian" reinterpretation of scripture.
- Polarizing responses - Conversion Therapy (Ex-Gay ministries) vs. visible & verbal hatred (Westboro Baptist Church, Topeka KS, godhatesfags.com)

IV. Confused Church and the New Lepers

- Stereotypes define conservative Christians and anyone that identifies with the LGBTQ+ community.
- At worst, hatred rules the heart (unworthy of love). At best, avoidance is the status quo (don't know what to do). *(personal story about a friend from Liberty)*

V. We must intentionally take the authentic love of Jesus Christ to the LGBTQ+ community. (1Cor. 9:19-27)

- We must repent of the hatred in our hearts. This is sin equal to every other sin.
- We must repent of our judgmentalism. We are not the judge, it's not our job.
- We must repent of thinking that our sin is in some way less offensive to God.
- We must repent of ignoring an entire community for whom Christ died.
- We must refuse to see LGBTQ+ people through the lease of stereotypical activists.
- We must actively love the LGBTQ+ community as loved by God and worthy of discipleship.
- We must walk with families & individuals who are hurting and confused.
- We must walk the line of compassion without bowing to the activist demand for affirmation.
- We must remain true to scripture, exercise grace like Jesus, and expect to be misunderstood, hated, and persecuted for it.
- We must be a church where people know they're loved and can be transparent about their struggles.

VI. Let's talk about LGBTQ+. Let's represent Jesus by our commitment to authentic love!