



Helping Families Navigate the World of LGBTQ

I. The Christian call to the ministry of compassion and the ministry of justice

II. God's truth about sexuality

A. God made a man and a woman. There are only two sexes. "Sex" and "gender" are synonyms. God's creation of our physical bodies is good and important. Genesis 1:27

B. Marriage is a covenant relationship created by God between one man and one woman. Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:1-5

C. God's purposes for sex: uniting the spirit of husband and wife, making babies, and pleasure

D. Sexual immorality is any use of sexuality outside of one man, one woman marriage. We are to flee from sexual immorality. 1 Corinthians 6:18

E. Homosexual behavior, along with many other forms of sexual immorality, are specifically identified as sin throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Romans 1:21-27, Leviticus 18:22, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Timothy 1:8-11

F. God offers total and complete forgiveness for all sins through Christ's work on the cross, including all sexual sins, as well as a transformation of our hearts and affections - beginning in this life and perfected in our eternal life. John 3:16, 1 John 1:9

III. Common areas of confusion in the church

- A. "Jesus never talked about homosexuality, transgenderism, etc."
- B. "The New Testament teaches that 'there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'" (Galatians 3:25-29)
- C. "If God created a person with homosexual attraction or a different 'gender identity', how could that be wrong?"

IV. Helping family members who are struggling with their sexuality

- A. Pray for a heart of compassion. Matthew 9:36
- B. Affirm their courage and honesty.
- C. Affirm your care and commitment to them (The principle of proximity).
- D. Ask for them to share more of their journey with you.
- E. Keep the conversation going - full of grace and truth.
- F. If there is a sense of conflict or conviction - pour in the Gospel, love, support, and hope. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- G. With a child, get time away for heart connection and relationship building.

H. Establish boundaries around unhealthy relationships.

I. If there is no sense of conflict or conviction, your approach will be necessarily more "truth based."

J. Seek pastoral and Christian counseling

K. Specific responses for teens expressing "transgender" struggles

1. Don't feed the confusion.
2. Seek to cut off unhealthy influences - friends, media, and environments.
3. Continue full of grace and full of truth conversations.
4. Responding to "What if my feelings never change?"
5. The ministry of time.

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