

DEFENDABLE FAITH - ANSWERING TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

Is God Opposed to the LGBTQ Agenda?

INTRODUCTION: Our goal tonight is first and foremost to look at God's Word and see if we can determine what the Bible says about this issue.

We will also discuss why this issue is different from others in our culture.

Lastly, we will discuss what our response should be.

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

For followers of Christ, our first reaction to any issue should be to go to the _____ and solidify what _____ says about that issue.

Leviticus 18:22 - **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;**

Romans 1:18-32 - **18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.**

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

1 Timothy 1:10 – the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹ in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 – 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

The second thing we do after solidifying what the Bible teaches about homosexuality and other sexually immoral practices is to decide whether or not we are going to _____ the Bible.

WHY IS THIS SIN SO DIFFERENT?

Question #1 – Why do we seem so focused on the sin of homosexuality and seem to overlook other sins?

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 – 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Homosexuality is not the _____ sin mentioned. But still, from a worldly perspective, homosexuality is treated differently from all the rest, at least for right now.

At this moment in history, contrary to the other sins listed here, homosexuality is celebrated by large portions of our society. The practice and acceptance of the LGBTQ agenda is often viewed as the new hallmark of progress and forward thinking.

As far as I know, none of the other sins listed in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 is applauded so aggressively by whole groups of people who advocate for their normalcy.

- _____ is still frowned upon by the majority.
- Accusations of greed are rarely seen as a positive characteristic.
- Thievery is still not openly embraced.

- There is no such thing as a _____ agenda yet.
- Reviling others is not seen as the best way to win friends and influence people.
- _____, especially on a corporate level, usually gets you thrown into jail.

The other sins listed along with homosexuality in this passage are still seen in a pretty _____ light by the majority. But not homosexual practice, not by those who are now speaking the loudest and many who are holding positions of prominence. Even some with positions of prominence within the church. According to the emerging consensus, homosexuality is seen as _____.

Question #2 – Does acceptance really equal love while rejection really equals hate?

For the most part, our culture has the LGBTQ issue divided into two camps:

Camp #1 - Those who support the LGBTQ agenda and therefore love LGBTQ individuals, or

Camp #2 - Those who do not support the LGBTQ agenda and therefore hate LGBTQ individuals.

The current debate is plagued by this binary lens.

But true followers of Christ will walk _____ path. We have something to say that no one else is saying.

We do not accept the LGBTQ agenda; in fact, we acknowledge God's clear revealed word that homosexuality is sin.

AND

We do not hate those who embrace the LGBTQ agenda; in fact, we love them enough to not just collapse under societal pressure and be silent about God's truth.

We must speak the truth in love into this issue, saying, simultaneously, "You are _____" and "You are _____."

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE?

Question #1 – Is it _____ to warn LGBTQ individuals about the consequences of their sin?

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 – **9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor**

adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Paul is warning the church about many different sins. And then Paul says this is v. 11

1 Corinthians 6:11 – *And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

“And such were some of you.” Paul is warning some of those who make up the Church at Corinth not to fall _____ into lives of sinful practice.

The heart of Christianity is that God saves sinners through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The best news in all the world is that Jesus Christ died and rose again so that all sinners, can be rescued from their path of destruction by faith in Jesus Christ. This is the heart of our message.

The world will say that warning people who practice homosexuality about final judgment is hateful. It is not hateful. Hate does not want people to be _____. Hate does not want people to join the family. Hate wants to _____. And that is what sin does, sin destroys.

If homosexual practice leads to exclusion from the kingdom of God (as the Word of God says it does), and if there is hope for rescue in Jesus Christ (as the Word of God says there is), then love _____. Love _____. Love comes _____ and does all it can to help a person find new life in Christ.

Question #2 – Can a person be born homosexual?

Despite the claims that one can be born homosexual, there is no genetic or scientific _____ that this can be.

For Christians, innateness doesn't mean that something is permissible. Being born a _____ doesn't make sin _____. We must point people to a far more important claim: Regardless of what you believe was true or not true when you were born, Jesus says that you must be born again.

- It doesn't matter whether you think you were born an adulterer; you must be born again.
- It doesn't matter whether you think you were born a thief; you must be born again.
- It doesn't matter whether you think you were born greedy; you must be born again.
- It doesn't matter whether you think you were born an alcoholic; you must be born again.
- And it doesn't matter whether you think you were born a homosexual; you must be born again.

Being born again means we are a _____ creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**

Being born again means putting to _____ our sin.

Romans 8:13 – **For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

Colossians 3:5 – **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**

This is not sin modification, this is sin _____.

The need to be born again is a message for _____. We all must be born again. And God is the one, according to His great mercy, through the resurrection of Jesus, who causes us to be born again.

1 Peter 1:3 – **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

CONCLUSION: Christians shouldn't be surprised when the world hates us and persecutes us over our rejection of the LGBTQ agenda. The world hated and persecuted Jesus too. But let us follow the way of Jesus and love those who persecute us as He _____ and _____ throughout His ministry, even in His greatest moment of betrayal when He cried out "Father forgive them, they know not what they do."

As for the LGBTQ agenda...

Acceptance is not the answer, God does not accept this sin.

Silence is not the answer, God was not silent about this sin.

Hate is not the answer, God does not hate sinners.

Behavior modification is not the answer, God has called us to put sin to death.

The answer is sharing Jesus, who is the truth, and doing so in _____.