

Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson
LET'S TALK
Part 8: "Same-Sex Relationships"

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

What does the Bible say and teach about same-sex attraction and relationships?

Can you be gay and a Christian?

How can the church love and accept this demographic of people (LGBTQ)...?

[2 Timothy 3:16]

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us **what is true and to make us realize what is wrong** in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.*

[Genesis 1:27 & 2:24]

*So God created mankind, male and female he created them...Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and **shall become united and cleave to his wife**, and they shall become one flesh.*

Never build a theology around the argument of "silence in Scripture." In other words, do not frame your standpoint around what was not said.

[Matthew 19:4-6]

*"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.' " And he said, " 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart **what God has joined together.**"*

[Matthew 19:8]

*Jesus replied, "Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, **but it was not what God had originally intended.**"*

[John 7:37-38]

*On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "**Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink!** For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'"*

[John 12:20-21]

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus."

Without accepting and welcoming the LGBT community into church, they're not going to find the community they need to find the love of Christ.--Hailey Manning

TFH is a gay-welcoming church, but we are not going to affirm any lifestyles or practices that are outside of the boundaries of Scripture.

My 18-year-old son claims to be gay and dates men. How do I continue to stay connected to his heart when we are in disagreement over such an important area of his life? Right now, we really don't discuss it much.

1. Relate to his (her) sexual brokenness.

[Psalm 51:5, AMP]

Behold, I was born in [a state of] iniquity; my mother was sinful who conceived me [and I too am sinful].

At some level, we're all broken sexually and Jesus came to heal us all.

2. Continue to pray, love, and pursue the relationship, understanding that he (she) needs healing; he needs JESUS.

[Matthew 11:28-29]

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

[Matthew 9:10-13, *The Message*]

Later when Jesus was eating supper at Matthew's house with his close followers, a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them. When the Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and riffraff?" Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: they healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: 'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders."

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Can you be gay and Christian? by Dr. Michael L. Brown

What does the Bible really teach about Homosexuality? by Kevin DeYoung

Is God Anti-Gay? by Sam Allberry

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What separates casual Christians from true believers?**
- 2. How can we be an accepting church, while still standing upon clear biblical guidelines? Should we try to hold unbelievers to the same standards of living as those who claim to be followers of Jesus?**
- 3. How do we preach the Word of God, love unconditionally, and not fall into a trap of tolerance?**

4. How is idolatry a root-issue of same-sex attraction and relationships in our culture?
5. If someone loves Jesus, but can't progress past same-sex desires, should he or she practice celibacy for a given period of time?
6. How can we continue, or do better, at being a church where being attractive to and desired by the LGBTQ community?
7. What does the example of the Feast of Tabernacles in John 12 show us about God's heart for all peoples to come to Him?
8. Why is it important to be in relationship with broken people?
9. What does Scripture say about being born with propensity for sin and shaped in iniquity? What does our family dynamic and lineage have to do with that?
10. How can we "level the playing field," by relating to people's sexual brokenness? (instead of categorizing: "big sins" vs "baby sin")