

I have a Q: Is Christianity anti-LGBTQ+?

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REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will study the life and teaching of Jesus to understand God's character.
- I will accept others just as Christ has accepted me.
- I will be an extender of grace.
- I believe God's commands were given to bless my life.
- I will surrender to God and trust him to set me free.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

In this message we look at how deeply Jesus believed all people matter to God. It ran so deep for him that it got him into a lot of trouble. And then we will look at what it means for Blue Oaks; and for our gay friends, family members, neighbors and coworkers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When Jesus went to "the other side" of Galilee, a demon-possessed person came from the tombs to meet him and there is no mention of any other person interacting with Jesus. Can you think of a reason why?
2. The man possessed by demon then cured by Jesus wanted to come along when Jesus was leaving the Decapolis (as the people in the region asked him to leave), but Jesus told him to stay. What did Jesus tell him to do instead?
3. When Jesus went back to the Decapolis, so many people came out to welcome him and wanted Jesus' help (Matthew 15), unlike the first time. One person touched by Jesus told his story to his community, and so many people opened their hearts to Jesus. If we encounter an opportunity to meet one person in the community different from ours and unfamiliar to us, how should we approach him/her?

4. If you have any reservations about accepting the LGBTQ community, what could be your reasons? Is there anything that you fear by accepting them? If there is, why?
5. Why do we (as a society and as an individual) often fail to listen to those dealing with same-sex attraction?
6. Do you know someone from the LGBTQ community personally? Have they ever been marginalized by people of faith?
7. Tim Keller said, “The righteous are those who are willing to disadvantage themselves in order to advantage the community.” Matt said, “The weapons of Jesus’ kingdom are ... generous hearts and those who are willing to do whatever it takes to make room for more people to enter into his community.” When the LGBTQ community seems like “the other side” to the comfort and security of a church community, what can you do to bring the Good News of Jesus to them?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will read *Us Versus Us* by Andrew Marin.
- I will not answer closed-ended questions with closed-ended answers.
- I will take the posture of listening in order to build bridges with gay people.
- I will go to the other side and love the other side.
- I will treat gay people with dignity, respect and kindness.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Mark 4:1
- Mark 4:35
- Joshua 3:10
- Acts 13:19
- Mark 5:6-9
- Mark 5:14-17
- Mark 5:18
- Mark 5:20
- Mark 8:2
- Mark 6:42-43
- Mark 8:8
- Matthew 15:30-31
- Matthew 20:28
- Galatians 3:28
- Proverbs 11:10

Prayer Request(s)
