

EPISODE 11: “DOES GOD HATE GAY PEOPLE?”

CHRISTIANITY AND THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

CONTEXT

It is no question that homosexuality or one’s sexual orientation has become culture’s greatest moral and spiritual issue for the Christian community. Yet, the Church often avoids discussing this taboo topic. But what is God’s heart on the matter? Does God hate gay people? This lesson addresses the cultural and Christian worldview of alternative lifestyles by providing biblical truth and practical guidance for everyone – those who are believers and nonbelievers.

What Does it Mean to be Gay?

- 1) Cultural perspective – to be someone who is sexually, romantically, or emotionally attracted to someone else of the _____.
- 2) Christian perspective – to be a human with a _____.
- 3) Church’s Perspective – to be a person who is in community with other people who sin and need to be _____ through the _____ of Jesus Christ.

Cultural Perspective of Being Gay

- 1) The term gay is not gender-specific and can refer to any man or woman who is attracted to someone of the same sex.
 - a) Other terms used in the culture to define same-sex attraction are queer, homosexual, or lesbian (in regard to female same-sex attraction).
 - b) How someone identifies themselves according to their sexual orientation is a _____ and can be a result of _____ or _____.
 - (1) Some people were _____ with a natural attraction toward the same sex.
 - (2) Some people were led by their _____ to develop an attraction to the same sex.
- 2) What does the word _____ mean and is it a bad thing?
 - a) To have an attraction is to _____ or find pleasure in a person, place, or thing.
 - i) Experiencing desire itself is a natural part of the _____.
 - (1) God created us to “wish for” or want.
 - (2) There are _____ different types of wants or desires:
 - (i) _____ desire is called hunger or thirst.
 - (ii) _____ desire is called curiosity.
 - (iii) _____ desire is called lust.

(3) We see examples of these desires in the Old and New Testament.

(4) Desire in the Bible is often seen as _____.

(a) Temptation is the desire to do or have something that is not _____ or approved by God.

(b) Jesus himself experienced temptation that he had to _____ (Luke 4; Hebrews 2:18).

b) Being _____ is not sin; it is what we do with our temptation that leads to sin.

Therefore, is having same-sex attraction a sin? Let's talk about what the Bible says...

**the Bible has often been misused or misquoted to condemn the LGBTQ+ community but in this lesson our goal is to affirm their humanity while also acknowledging God's desire for humanity. Thus, conviction may occur as a result of this lesson. Yet, we do not condemn anyone's lifestyle in this church community.*

Christian Perspective of Being Gay

1) Regarding our _____, the Bible tells us that God's _____ design for humanity, was for a man to correspond sexually to a woman (Genesis 2:18).

2) Our _____ and what God deemed as " _____ " came into this world together.

a) According to Genesis 1:26-27, we were created as _____ - _____ to reflect God.

i) Our primary identity is an image-bearer of God's _____.

ii) If God did not deem it as good, we must ask ourselves is it God?

b) The idea of same-sex attraction did not _____ before sin entered the world.

c) Adam and Eve's _____ to eat the fruit from the tree of good and evil introduced sin into the world (Genesis 3:6-7).

i) Pictured in the account of the fall are all three examples of desire:

(1) _____ desire (good for food)

(2) _____ desire (designed to make one wise)

(3) _____ desire (delight to the eyes/lust)

d) Adam and Eve's decision to let their desire lead them do what God did not sanction them to do is what God _____. God detests sin, not people.

i) Therefore, if God did not _____ same-sex attraction but we yield to it because of our desire, that is called sin and God hates the sin.

But this is our reality...

3) As humans, we all have a _____.

- a) At our core, we are all _____ against God with a natural inclination to sin (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23, 3:10-12).
 - b) We all have a heart that desires what we aren't supposed to have.
 - c) We all have _____ desires that need to be exchanged for _____ desires.
 - i) Those who have a same-sex attraction are humans who have a sin nature no different than one who lusts after someone who isn't their spouse.
 - ii) Being in a homosexual relationship means struggling with or simply refusing to yield one's self-interest to God's intended plan for humanity.
 - d) It is dangerous to follow our heart's desires because the heart is _____ (Jeremiah 17:9).
 - e) For out of the heart comes evil thoughts, murder, adultery, _____, theft, false witness, and slander (Matthew 15:19).
 - f) Our minds are governed by our flesh which makes our desires automatically _____ to God and _____ to God's law (Leviticus 20:13; Romans 8:7-8).
- 4) We must _____ to delight ourselves in God so that God gives us good desires in our heart (Psalm 37:4).
- a) Our desires – when not centered in God's desire for us – can lead us to develop sin in our hearts; sin in our hearts can become a lifestyle of sin.
 - b) Thus, if whatever we are attracted to in our hearts satisfies _____ yet it doesn't satisfy the _____, it is sin and should be surrendered to God.
 - i) Our heart (thoughts, feelings, and actions) is our orientation to God and should be centered in godly wisdom (Proverbs 4:23).
 - ii) Our sexual orientation should point to God, not what we think is good.

So the question remains...does God hate gay people for allowing their desires to govern their flesh?

- 5) God does not hate gay people just like God does not hate you for being a sinner.
 - a) God does not call us to heterosexuality; God calls us to _____.
 - b) God hates our sin nature and an unrepentant heart (Romans 2:2-9).
 - c) God loves us while we're in sin but wants us to repent (Romans 5:8; 2 Peter 3:9).
 - d) God loves us so much, God gave us Jesus Christ (John 3:16).
 - i) It is through Christ that we are born again in the Spirit, dying to our flesh (John 3:5-6).
- 6) When we were born, we _____ a sin nature from Adam and Eve but when we are born again believers in Christ, we receive a _____ (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

So what should the Church's perspective be?

Church's Perspective of Gay People

- 1) We must remember that we all _____ of God's glory (Romans 3:23).
 - a) _____ doesn't remove the need for _____ (1 Thessalonians 4:3).
 - b) As humans, sin remains in us and we struggle with our old nature while in this world (Romans 7:15-25).
- 2) We must remember to _____ and _____ without confusing the two (Psalm 119:113-120; Romans 12:9).
 - a) We are commanded to _____ God and _____ people (Matthew 22:37-39).
 - b) We are commanded to _____ sin (Psalm 97:10).
- 3) We must remember that no one who is created by God can keep on _____ and be ok with that lifestyle (1 John 3:8-10).

And that is why we all need Jesus Christ, no matter our lifestyle choices.