



You ASKED FOR IT!

How Should the Church Respond to Gay Marriage?

GET GOING

A growing percentage of Americans believe that homosexuality is not a moral choice, but simply a choice of preference. It is widely believed that those who see homosexuality as a sin are bigoted and homophobic. The truth is that homosexual behavior (or any sexual intimacy outside of marriage) is outside the boundaries of God's will. As believers, we have been called to speak the truth on this issue, while showing unconditional love and acceptance to those within the gay community. How does that work?

DISCUSS

1. **What's your favorite season of the year? Why?**
2. Homosexuality is a hot-button topic and our conversation can go a lot of different directions. But let's stay focused on exploring this one question: How do we personally respond to those who struggle with homosexuality?
3. **Read John 3:16-17. What was God's response to sinners?** (Answer: Incomprehensible compassion to the point of sending His only Son to die on behalf of the guilty.)
4. **Verse 17 is especially helpful to our discussion. Jesus did not come to do what?** (Answer: to judge and condemn.) Even though Jesus had every right to judge sin, He was focused on rescuing, not accusing those far from God.
5. So Jesus talked to sinners about their sin, but did not exclude them or see them as unreachable. **How does this impact how we are to interact with anyone that is caught in a sin?**
6. **In what ways have you witnessed "Christians" messing this up?** (Examples: Policing the workplace: being "Profanity Police," tearing people down those with different viewpoints on social media, refusing to associate with people who struggle with different sins, and being hypocrites: condemning one sin while ignoring others.)
7. **What sin have you struggled with at some time in your life?**
8. **What did God do with you and your sin?**

WRAP IT UP

Wrap up by praying for those in our church and our communities caught up in sin. Ask God to break the bonds of long-standing sin in all of our hearts. Thank Him for His grace that saves us, changes us, and gives us a fresh start every time.