

Q&A for The Gospel & Sexuality

There are some great resources on Christopher's FAQ page here: <http://www.christopheryuan.com/mobile/faqs.html> (See FAQ printout). For other questions, see below.

Introduction

Sex is a good gift given to us by God. It was also designed by God. Therefore, He has the authority to tell us how to enjoy his good gift, within the parameters of His design. Think of sex like a fire. Fire is wonderful within the right context. We enjoy a fire in a fireplace, outside by a campfire, and under the burgers on our grills! However, fire is also very destructive if it gets out of control or outside of the boundaries of its intended use. While it can heat your home, it can also burn your house down. It warms; but it also burns.

As our culture continually changes (including the Christian subculture), we are noticing that the context of sexuality and sexual conduct is shifting in some pretty dramatic ways. What has been defined in the Scriptures to be the context of sexual relationships is now being challenged and rejected by people within and outside the church. From casual hook-ups to living together to same-sex marriage, there seems to be confusion about what God's design is for human sexuality. We are offering The Gospel and Sexuality to answer some of these questions.

What is the Gospel & Sexuality?

We think that the Bible both prescribes and describes the design God had in mind for human sexuality. We want to explore the Scriptures, as God's authority over us, and talk about sex within the context of God's good design. Moreover, we believe the Gospel intersects with human sexuality because we also recognize that each and every person deals with brokenness in our own sexuality. Addictions to pornography, one-night stands, prostitution, and other sexual deviancy litter our churches. These things are seen within the context of heterosexuality and homosexuality. Our hope is to show that the Gospel offers a better alternative to sexual brokenness and allow it to repair each of us.

Does your church believe in same-sex marriage?

We are not a political organization and do not plan to make a political statement about same-sex marriage. However, we do believe the Bible says that marriage is between a man and a woman, and we will hold to the traditional view of marriage within the context of the Church.

Is same-sex attraction wrong?

Attraction, in and of itself, is not wrong. People are mysteriously "attracted" to people of both sexes — this is what helps to build friendships and relationships. Moreover, we have an entire industry in the entertainment world that is successful because it models beautiful people we are all attracted to. It is not wrong to have attractions to other people. However, our attractions can and should be controlled. No one should act on every desire they have, and we will contend that it is what we do with our attractions and desires that is right or wrong.

Are you proposing a therapeutic model at this event?

No. We do not think that human sexual attractions are easily changed. We will not propose that a person can "pray the gay away." However, we will offer a hopeful word to people who are attracted sexually to people of the same sex. Regardless of the intensity and frequency of same-sex attractions, people can live in right relationship with God in a way that is honoring to Him and good for their lives.



Where does the Bible talk about homosexuality? Is it a sin?

This question presumes homosexual sexual relations. While the Bible doesn't speak of homosexual conduct often, when it does talk about it, it is clearly a sin. The passages in the Bible are from Genesis 1, Leviticus 18 and 22, 1 Corinthians 6, Romans 1, and 1 Timothy 1.

Isn't Romans 1 about temple prostitution? Paul does not really have in mind loving, committed same-sex relationships, right?

I'd be happy to set up an appointment to have you talk to one of our pastors or elders about this. This is more than a quick conversation. (This could be the same answer for people asking serious questions about the hermeneutics/exegesis of the Bible, or wondering about Matthew Vines' book, etc.)

Aren't your views of human sexuality outdated and not allowing for human progress?

Probably, yes. However, we did not create our views of human sexuality, and we are not promoting a personal agenda. We are trying to be faithful to what the Bible says. Your argument is with the Bible and not us.

Can a person with a same-sex attraction be a Christian?

Yes. Anyone who puts their trust in Christ's redemptive work on the cross and receives him by faith and repents of their sin can be a Christian. However, without Jesus, no one will have justification for their sins or forgiveness. But anyone who repents of sin and believes the good news will be saved.

Are LGBTQ people invited to attend this event?

Yes.

Are LGBTQ people invited to attend Imprint Church?

Yes, absolutely.

Can LGBTQ people be involved at Imprint Church?

Yes, in many ways.

What do you think about _____ Church's stance on homosexuality?

We are not attempting to talk about other churches at this event. Our goal is to look at Scripture and understand what God's Word says about human sexuality.

Aren't some churches saying now that homosexual monogamy is OK with God?

Yes. But this isn't as new as you think it is. They did in the 1st century church, too. Our question to answer does not come from what the church says, but what the Bible says.

Isn't this event promoting homophobia and not allowing basic human rights?

Actually, it's exactly the opposite. We believe that God's way is the best way and promotes perfect love and acceptance through Jesus Christ. The most loving thing we can do — and the most helpful for basic human rights — is to tell people the truth about a God who loves them and wants the best for their lives. We also believe that bullying and homophobia are wrong. No church or Christian should mistreat any person no matter what they believe or how they act. You will not hear any disrespectful words here. All people are created in the "image of God" and are equal in value and worth. Everyone deserves equal respect.