



Sermon Series: Courageous Conversations, Part 2

Sermon Title: Conversations About LGBTQ

Speaker/ Date: Armin Sommer, January 10, 2021

One of the most difficult and delicate conversations a follower of Christ can have is with someone who embraces or affirms an LGBT orientation. Remember, the people who disagree with you are precious to God. There are several verses that help us have courageous conversations. Adopt a winsome, not hostile demeanor. **2 Timothy 4:1–4, Ephesians 4:14–15, 1 Corinthians 9:22b–23**

big idea - Your objective: Not to win an argument, but to win people.

There are 3 strategies to conversations about this volatile topic.

Strategy #1. Establish Rapport

You have several tasks for you when engaging in a conversation regarding LGBT.

A. Be a good listener James 1:19

B. Identify spiritual common ground

Does the person profess faith in Christ?

C. Explore Their Beliefs

Do they consider themselves LGBT? Are they close with someone in the LGBT community?

D. Remember your role

You're not a culture warrior, but an ambassador of Christ. **2 Cor. 5:20**

You don't have to relinquish your convictions. But you do need to submit your temperament to the Holy Spirit's control. **2 Timothy 2:24**

Strategy #2. Understand the Topic

Western culture is now developing an entirely new glossary of gender pronouns. **LGBTQIA+.**

L Lesbian

G Gay (mainly referring to homosexual men)

B Bisexual (attracted to both men and women)

T Transgender (Someone whose chosen gender doesn't match their birth gender)

Q Queer / Questioning (a general term, often used of entire LGBT community.)

- I **Intersex** (a tiny minority of people born, to an extent, with both male and female characteristics)
- A **Asexual / Allies** (No sexual attraction, or an “ally” of LGBTQ)
- + **Anything else** that hasn’t yet received a label

Some other terms:

Sexual Orientation Inclinations, attractions, or behaviors that describe how someone feels toward a particular sex or gender

Gender Identity A person's belief regarding what their gender is

Gender Dysphoria Deep discomfort over the incompatibility of one’s biological sex and one’s experience of gender.

There are three popular beliefs that are at the core of LGBT spiritual beliefs.

Popular Belief #1: Same-Sex Intimacy is not a Sin

What does the Bible teach?

Romans 1:25–27 “Natural relations” refers to sexual intimacy that matches the natural order.

1 Corinthians 6:9b–10 Paul’s list covers a range of behaviors of which same-sex intimacy is one example of unacceptable behavior. He uses two specific words that refer in general in adult homosexual intercourse.

Popular Belief #2: God Approves of Same Sex Marriage

Jesus clearly defines marriage and God’s plan for it. His words clearly point to a union between a man and a woman **Matthew 19:4–6**

Genesis 2:18 The description as “suitable,” refers to someone who corresponds to the other, who complete one another. God designed man and woman literally to “fit together” like the interlocking pieces of a puzzle.

Popular Belief #3: You Can Choose Your Own Gender

Our gender is something we receive at conception. Your genetic code is hard-wired by God into every cell in your body. Regardless of name changes, drug therapy, surgical alteration, and photoshop, at the very basic level of genetics, true sex change is impossible.

Medical science recognizes that brain chemistry and maturation are not complete until one reaches their 20s. Many studies indicate that upwards of 90% “transgender” kids eventually grow out of the sense of discordance with their birth gender as they develop and mature.

There’s a 3rd strategy in courageous conversations.

Strategy #3. Keep the Door Open

Paul in **Acts 17:20**, had conversation with Athenian philosophers. He left them wanting to hear more.

Try to keep the door open. Remind yourself:

God hasn't called you to "fix" anyone's sexual brokenness. Your job is to point them to Jesus.

The other person bears the image of God and is precious.

Anchor the conversation and your attitude with God's love, grace, and mercy.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- What should the overall purpose be in engaging in courageous conversations?
- Do you think it is the church's responsibility to engage in discussions with anyone in the LGBT community?
- Have you ever heard anyone use the Bible to support same sex intimacy? Do you agree with them? Explain
- Should churches adapt their teachings to agree with changing societal norms? Explain
- Would others describe you as someone who is good at establishing rapport and keeping the door open for further discussion? If so- what is your approach? If not- what needs to change?