

Heavy Burdens Discussion Questions

Introduction

What statistic or concept in the intro were you most surprised by?

What does it look like to help people follow Jesus without casting heavy burdens on them?

Chapter 1 & 2

Do you feel the reformers overcorrected in their pursuits? Why or why not?

Do you think the statement "sex and sexuality as integral to human identity; celibacy as unnatural; marriage as a human right; pursuit of marriage for romantic love." Is biblical?

Chapter 3 & 4

Had you considered the distinction between an action and an identity in the language certain translations use? What are your thoughts on such a distinction?

Was your understanding of gay culture and the language around LGBTQ expanded? What misunderstandings do you believe are widely held in the church regards to language?

Chapter 5 & 6

Do you agree that the gay community have been made out to be a folk devil?

Why has the term gay Christian been rejected so widely? Where do you stand after reading the book?

Chapter 7 & 8

Were Rivera's arguments enlightening to you in the depth in the 1 Corinthian verses? Why do we often hear the subject is "clear" with such nuance?

Do you concur with Rivera that we should be able to agree to disagree on this subject? Why or why not?

Chapter 9 & 10

What should the defining, pursuit and defence of biblical manhood or womanhood look like based on these chapters and your own experience?

Chapter 11 & 12

By the end of chapter 11 Rivera has shown the biblical teaching to be disruptive to gender norms of their day. From your perspective have biblical gender norms been adapted by church or do we still need to adapt the teaching?

On page 151 Rivera states "Moore expressed a view of masculinity rooted in obedience to God, not sexuality. Biblical masculinity doesn't depend on sexual attraction to the opposite sex. It doesn't depend on sex at all. It depends on our obedience to God." In what ways are we do determine how God leads us regarding our gender then?

Chapter 13 & 14

"Countless LGBTQ people thereby come to pursue celibacy, opposite-sex marriage, or gender conformity' for no other reason than because they might go to hell if they don't. In effect, they rely on sex to save them, leading to a cycle of sin-guilt-repentance-repeat that leads inevitably to despair." I think Rivera fails to see many Christians use this motivation to avoid many things. What should motivate us for any "sin management" anyways?

Do you agree with Rivera that there is a difference between sin of conscience and sin of violence? Why or why not?

Chapter 15

Do you have hope for the Church to find a way to agree to disagree over this matter? Should it?

Chapter 16

What one of the practices for "setting down the burdens" struck you most and why?