

Biblically Engaging Our Culture
LGBTQIA+

6-1-22

Wed.

The question is often asked how do I interact with this?

As I've tried to help students with this question the following lesson became the first step in a practical response to "how do I..."

The Main thought: How you interact with LGBTQ is all about shepherding!

With that in mind, how do you think about LGBTQ?

There is a wide range of thought even within Churches:

Denominations that support LGBTQIA+ movement.

Episcopal

Baptist

Catholic

Lutheran

Methodist

Pentecostal

Reformed

All in some way say they find "biblical" grounds for it. Most common way is to say "loving committed" relationships.

David Henderson "Culture Shift":

The term *biblical* needs to be redefined. It cannot mean merely "from somewhere within the pages of Scripture." In light of the way the Bible is written, as a single fabric of thought stretching from front to back, biblical must mean "in keeping with what the Bible is about."

What is the Bible about? About God, about His Glory

Genesis 1:27-31 (NASB95)

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so.

31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Romans 1:20 (NASB95)

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

If God's Glory is at the beginning it must carry on to be a true biblical view.

Romans 11:36 (NASB95)

36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Revelation 5:13 (NASB95)

13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

#1 Bible is about God and His glory. God created so that all could see Him for who He is/how He is!

#2 But there is a problem. Throughout the Bible you see people sinning everywhere in every way.

Genesis 4:8 (NASB95)

8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Judges 3:7 (NASB95)

7 The sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth.

James 4:2-3 (NASB95)

2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

#2A The Bible teaches that we are all born sinners:

Psalms 51:5 (NASB95)

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NASB95)

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Romans 5:12 (NASB95)

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

#3 The good news

Genesis 3:7-8 (NASB95)

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:21 (NASB95)

21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB95)

21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Romans 3:21-23 (NLT)

21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.

22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

How does this help?

Consider our Biblical view so far:

#1 God created to bring Glory to himself.

#2 All sin.

#3 All sin is redeemable b/c Christ died for all sins.

How do these truths help us think about LGBTQ?

#1 Gives us a core purpose for the existence of life and for my life.

#2 People can be born LGBTQ because we are all born sinners

#2A Fundamentally we are all exactly the same. Sinners!

#3 The good news is that Christ made the way for anyone and everyone.

Romans 3:23-26 (NLT)

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,

26 for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

I'm born this way, does that mean it's ok?

#4 Throughout the Bible you see that God loves people so much He wants to change them completely.

OT Saints, name changes, nationality changes, land changes

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (NASB95)

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

Reconcile means something or someone is changed completely!

Think about the end of time. What is going to happen?

Revelation 21:1-11 (NLT)

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.

2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

6 And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life.

10 So he took me in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

11 It shone with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious stone—like jasper as clear as crystal.

Revelation 21:22-23 (NLT)

22 I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

23 And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light.

How does this help us think about LGBTQIA+?

There is an agenda.

Trans movement wants to eliminate anatomy for I.D. and make sex/gender separate.

Biological sex refers to the physical features of a human body (or anatomy).

Gender identity refers to one's internal sense of being. That may align more toward being a male, female, or anywhere in between. Some people who identify as nonbinary may not have an internal sense of being a male or female at all.

If the basis of our identity can change based on how we feel then what are the ramifications for society?

#5 The Bible says God created Man and Woman and never separates biological sex from gender.

Genesis 1:27 (NASB95)

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Matthew 19:4-5 (NASB95)

4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,

5 and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'?"

1 Peter 1:24-25 (NASB95)

24 For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,

25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you.

#6 Throughout the Bible when any relationship moves outside of God's original design it is sinful.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NASB95)

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

This list includes but is not limited to sinful sexual relationships.

EX: We learn that when we move outside of God's good design to be satisfied in Him (contentment) and instead become greedy we are sinning.

Just like if a person who is born male decides to transition to female. He is now moving outside of God's design and is sinning.

#7 The last piece we're adding tonight is that throughout the Bible God's way is the way to life eternal (Both heaven and a way of life today). In contrast to the way of man.

Proverbs 14:12 (NASB95)

12 There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

John 14:6 (NASB95)

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

John 10:7-11 (NASB95)

7 So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

9 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Look at the Shepherding heart of God. You see it all thru Scripture!

If well written laws and/or good science could solve the world's problems, we wouldn't have any problems.

The solution is found in Him, The Shepherding God who created you.

The LGBTQIA+ movement is concerned with helping people become who they feel they should be. They are shepherding.

If you want to know how to answer and interact with the question, "how do I interact with the LGBTQ movement?" own Psalm 23.

Psalm 23 (NLT)

A psalm of David.

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.

3 He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

5 You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

Tell them your HOPE. Don't explain DNA. Tell them that God your God is making everything new! That you don't always have the answers or know what's best but your Shepherd does.

Hebrews 2:17-18 (NASB95)

17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NLT)

14 Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.

15 He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.