

Is the gospel really good news for my LGBT⁺ neighbour?

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Confident Christianity, October 2024

What's going to happen?



- Morning session
 - First half of my testimony
 - How I came to trust 'orthodox' teaching of Christian sexual ethic
- Afternoon session
 - Second half of my testimony
 - How can we love those identifying as LGBT+ well whilst remaining true to orthodox Christian teaching

God is love

- **1 John 4.16** – and so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.
- **God IS love. Therefore, he gets to define love and how it's expressed in his creation, not me.**



God & marriage



- **Genesis 2.24** – that is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.
- **Matthew 19.4-6** – “Haven’t you read”, he replied, “that at the beginning, the creator ‘made them male and female’, and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh.”
- **Marriage = one-flesh partnership of physically complementary beings designed to create together.**

God and same-sex sexual expression

- 6 'lobber' passages:
 - Genesis 19.4-25
 - Leviticus 18.22
 - Leviticus 20.13
 - **Romans 1.26-7**
 - 1 Corinthians 6.9-11
 - 1 Timothy 1.9-10
- Controversies: which refer to loving and consensual same-sex relationship? How do we interpret these passages well?
- **Bare minimum, none affirm same-sex relationships**



God and same-sex sexual expression: summary



- God is love, so it's on his terms, not ours
- Never talked about positively anywhere in the Bible
- No broadening in ethic between testaments
- Marriage = between 2 complementary humans, reflecting God & church
- Judeo-Christian tradition has always been clear in this area

Is the gospel good news for those identifying as LGBT+?

- YES! Why?
 - All need the love of God
 - All sinners in need of a Saviour
 - All people are loved by God
- AND...
 - We need to discuss further what this looks like
 - We need to be real about the struggles & joys
 - We need to look at our own lives and church practice...

