

# The second sexuality talk: loving well!

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Confident Christianity  
October 2024



# The good news is for everyone! ☺ OCCA

- No difference for the LGBT+ person
- **1 Cor 6.9-11:** Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
- **Jesus love is better than any other love I've known: NO exceptions!**

# We are all broken!



- What LGBT+ people hear: "we're screwed up, everyone else is fine!"
- **Romans 3.23:** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
- Acknowledging we're in need of a saviour is counter-cultural
- Let's get rid of the 'us *vs.* them' mentality





# Equality of love, acceptance and value

- Questions of humanity: am I lovable? Am I forgivable? Is there hope for me?
- God's answer: YES FOR ALL! Radical inclusion AND call to radical holiness
- Long history in church of non-acceptance: apology needed?

# Get real: singleness & marriage



- Marriage and singleness are both GOOD & TOUGH!
- Marriage can be an idol... 'sex and romance is the only way to a fulfilled life'
- Bad theology can lead to accusations of harm or deprivation
- Singleness = counter-cultural but lived out by Jesus & Paul!



A wooden lounge chair with dark cushions is positioned on a ship's deck. The deck is made of light-colored wooden planks. In the background, there is a white metal railing overlooking the ocean. The sky is overcast and grey. The text "A thought experiment..." is overlaid in the center of the image in a white serif font.

A thought experiment...

# We change AFTER we meet Jesus!



- Christian worldview is RADICALLY different to secular worldview
- SHOULD WE EXPECT NON-CHRISTIANS TO HOLD TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS?
- Unless worldview is changed, agreement is unlikely, and even then....!



# The LGBT+ identity

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- For many, LGBT+ identity defines (at least in part) who they are:
  - Community and place of safety
  - Heard and understood
  - Life partner
  - Worldview
  - Meaning and purpose
- Thus, critique perceived as attack
- **Identity: who are you vs. whose are you?**





A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a red leather jacket and blue jeans, is standing in a library. She is reaching up to a high shelf to get a book. The shelves are filled with books of various colors and sizes. The background is a dark green gradient.

# Increasing disagreement

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- Honesty needed here!
- Disagreement doesn't necessarily = hate or hostility
- Feel free to read, investigate, pray and & discern for yourselves!

# In summary...



- The gospel IS good news for LGBT+-identifying people, but we need to be real about what this means in practice!
- We are ALL broken, regardless of sexual identity
- There is equality in love, acceptance and value for all, but not all human lives are the same in practice
- Singleness and marriage are BOTH arrangements where we can flourish: do you believe this?
- We are transformed AFTER we meet Jesus, not before!
- How are you going to love SSA/LGBT+ identifying people in your church?

# Further reading...



- **Books** (*Italics denote more progressive approach*)
  - A war of loves – David Bennett
  - What does the bible say about same-sex marriage? – Preston Sprinkle
  - Why does God care who I sleep with + Is God anti-gay? – Sam Allberry
  - *God & the Gay Christian* – Matthew Vines
  - *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: reframing the church's debate on sexuality* – James Brownson
  - *Queer Holiness* – Charlie Bell
- **Websites**
  - Center for Faith, Sexuality & Gender – [www.centerforfaith.com](http://www.centerforfaith.com)
  - Living Out – [www.livingout.org](http://www.livingout.org)
  - *The Reformation Project* – <https://reformationproject.org>



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