

**Thinking,
and talking,
about issues of
sexuality and
gender with our
friends.**

Where we're going...

Session 1: Why Do We Say The Things We Say?

Session 2: Thinking and Talking About Gender

Session 3: Thinking and Talking About Homosexuality

Session 4: Is All of This Loving?

Session 5: Thinking Through Difficult Issues

Session 01:

**Why Do We Say
What We Say
About These
Things?**

Opening Thoughts:

We live in a time of great passion about issues. **People make claims** about what we should do with our bodies and how we should think about human nature and gender. **Christians have realized** we disagree with many of those stances. ...*Why?*

**Why do Christians disagree
with our culture on so many of
these important issues?**

**Because Christians have a
totally different way of
coming to conclusions about
...everything.**

It's not just that Christians have different *views* than the majority of people in our culture... It's that Christians have a different source of information, and a different authority from which we receive our information...

...And, when we look out at the world and listen to what everyone says...

...we're not hearing any good reasons for, or any compelling logic or authority behind, the passion and the claims.

For instance:

- 1. Our culture can't give an account for what humans are. So how can people understand gender and sexuality?**

For instance:

- 1. Our culture can't give an account for what humans are. *So how can people understand gender and sexuality?***
- 2. People can't account for how they know what they know. *So how can we trust their assertions?***

For instance:

1. Our culture can't give an account for what humans are. *So how can people understand gender and sexuality?*
2. People can't account for how they know what they know. *So how can we trust their assertions? (The Big Problem.)*

How can we listen to people talk about:

- 1. Humanity**
- 2. Gender**
- 3. Family**
- 4. Sexuality**
- 5. Human Development**

...if we can't see that they have a real, trustworthy source of information—something solid that their views are based on?

Some crucial questions:

1. What is a human?

Some crucial questions:

1. What is a human?
2. What is gender? Where did it come from?

Some crucial questions:

1. What is a human?
2. What is gender? Where did it come from?
3. What is sexuality? What is it for?

Some crucial questions:

1. What is a human?
2. What is gender? Where did it come from?
3. What is sexuality? What is it for?
4. What makes humans most healthy?

Some crucial questions:

1. What is a human?
2. What is gender? Where did it come from?
3. What is sexuality? What is it for?
4. What makes humans most healthy?
5. What makes humans most happy?

Does our culture have answers for these questions?

When they do give answers...

Are they coherent?

Do they work in their larger world view?

Are they compelling?

...And where did they get these answers?

Does our culture have answers for these questions?

When they do give answers...

Are they **coherent**?

Do they work in their larger world view?

Are they **compelling**?

...And where did they get these answers?

KEY THOUGHT:

Any assertion people make must be backed up by a trustworthy (and relevant) source of information.

KEY THOUGHT:

Any assertion people make must be backed up by a trustworthy (and relevant) source of information.

(Or it isn't binding on anyone.)

Information Sources:

What are the sources of information about life and human flourishing that our culture depends on?

Information Sources:

1. Science
2. Society
3. History
4. Our Hearts
5. Movies, Art, Musicians, Celebrities,
the Internet... (Culture)

**Science, Society, History, Our Hearts,
Movies, Art, Musicians, Celebrities, the
Internet...**

**None of these are necessarily
authorities on the issues we're all
debating today, especially how we
should understand gender, or
sexuality. And none of them have final
authority to tell anyone how to live
their lives, or think, or speak...**

Therefore: Any assertion that is made solely on the basis of any of those “authorities” actually has no authority.

And so no one needs to listen to any of those assertions.

That includes Christians.

Science, Society, History, Our Hearts,
Movies, Art, Musicians, Celebrities, the
Internet...

A Unique Case: Science

Science can be a reliable authority
when it sticks to its strengths:

True Science simply makes
observations and describes the way
the physical universe is put together
and how it works.

(Christians love this.)

Science can be a reliable authority
when it sticks to its strengths:

For instance, today we suffer from a
willed ignorance of obvious
biological truths when it comes to our
debates about gender.

Science has some things to say
about this.

Science can be a reliable authority
when it sticks to its strengths:

What Science *cannot* do is answer
final questions about what humans
are, or how we should live.

Still, what it *can* tell us should not be
ignored.

**Science, Society, History, Our Hearts,
Movies, Art, Musicians, Celebrities, the
Internet...**

**None of these have final authority to
tell anyone how to live their lives, or
think, or speak...**

**Followers of Jesus do have an
authoritative, relevant, binding
authority.**

Followers of Jesus do have an authoritative, relevant, binding authority.

One that explains the world we live in...(coherently, and compellingly.)

...And then makes assertions that *make sense* based on its explanation of the world.

Followers of Jesus do have an authoritative, relevant, binding **authority**.

One that explains the world we live in...(coherently, and compellingly.)

...And then makes assertions that make sense based on its explanation of the world. It's **God's Word**.

The issue:

Not whether or not the bible is God's word.

But whether or not **God's word is a relevant authority.**

...one that's more authoritative than all those other sources of authority.

Has God spoken?

Did Jesus rise from the Dead?

Has God Spoken?

If He has—then that means that the One who made everything, and knows what it all is, has given us the information we need.

That is totally authoritative.

Has God Spoken?

It matters for everyone.

It's totally right.

It's totally good.

It's totally binding.

Did Jesus rise from the dead?

If He did—then He is the final ratification of everything the bible says. He demonstrated, in history, that He is the teacher of truth.

Did Jesus rise from the dead?

He upheld the Scriptures.

He told us how to read them.

He said that we all need to listen to what they say.

He put the exclamation point on everything God has said (in the Bible).

Talking Point:

“I have every reason to believe Jesus rose from the dead. Since he clearly taught that the bible is God’s word—and *then* rose from the dead, he’s the final proof I need to know that the Bible is God’s word. It tells me what God has said. And if God has said it, I just have listen to it. It’s what’s really true...”

Talking Point:

“And honestly, I trust God more than Kanye or Trump or Jimmy Kimmel or BuzzFeed anyway.”

“God knows what he’s talking about. And he’s the only one who knows *and* really loves us too.”

Always Ask Yourself:

“What’s the source of this information?”

“Where are they getting this idea from?”

“Who says this is true?”

Backing it Up:

Psalm 119:160

The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

John 17:17

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

Proverbs 2:6

For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Backing it Up:

Isaiah 66:2

"For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word."

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

So, the very beginning of knowing anything is to be rightly related to what God says....that is, to tremble at his word. (To give whatever God says the utmost respect, the kind which let's God's word shape your whole life.)

Backing it Up:

Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Or... “Woe to those who call (what I call) evil, ‘Good.’ ...”

We are in a bad spot if we *use our words* to make moral judgements which are opposite of the moral judgments God makes with *his* words.

What he says is evil is evil. What he says is good is good. He is the authority.

A little understood fact about Christians:

Christians simply aim to repeat the message of Jesus, as given to us through the writings of the New testament. For us, Jesus earned the right to tell us what the world really is, and how to live. Any authority lesser than his authority does not compete with his claim. If there's a conflict, he wins. We have no choice.

**Thinking about this
from another
perspective.**

Worldview: The Christian
Worldview is *comprehensive*.

Questions about the nature of gender
and sexuality can't be answered unless
we agree on some things.

What is the world?

What is a human?

Worldview: The Christian
Worldview is *comprehensive*.

If someone thinks **humans are only matter**, or only the product of evolution with no involvement of God, then they have no reason to agree with us on any of these issues.

Worldview: The Christian
Worldview is *comprehensive*.

Also...

If someone thinks **we have no reliable information about God**, then they have no reason to agree with us on any of these issues.

Worldview: The Christian Worldview is *comprehensive*.

So it's helpful to **ask people what they believe.**

- Where do they think everything came from?
- What do they think a human is?
- How do they make decision about important things?
 - i.e. What is true? What is beautiful?
What is right or wrong?

Worldview: The Christian
Worldview is *comprehensive*.

Lovingly, graciously, show people that
their worldview doesn't work.

They can't actually live with the
implications of what they say they
believe.

*Does the way they live and feel on a daily basis
actually match what they say? (i.e. materialism
or agnosticism concerning God)*

Worldview: The Christian
Worldview is *comprehensive*.

Lovingly, graciously, show people that
their worldview doesn't work.

Do they think everyone should think and
act the way they think and act? Do they
get upset when people disagree? Do
they want to legislate their moral
decisions and compel others to
comply? ...**Then they need some kind of
universal moral authority.**

1. **Worldview:** The Christian Worldview is *comprehensive*.

Lovingly, graciously, show people that
their worldview doesn't work.

If they say their moral decisions should
bind other people, they have no reason
why this should be the case.

Do they think everyone should think and
act the way they think and act? Do they
get upset when people disagree? **Why?**

The Christian Worldview is comprehensive

Creation → Fall → Fix → Restoration

What everything is:

- The world was made.
- Humans are made in the image of God. Love and sex are part of His creation and His good plan.

Why things are messed up:

- Humanity fell through sin, so we're now broken.
- Creation has a curse of entropy on it.

How things can be fixed:

- The Creator entered His creation as a real man in history.
- Jesus took on all the penalty of our sin and paid our debt.
- He rose again to show we can be forgiven and *completely redeemed*. We can be fixed.

We also understand the true significance and value of everything.

Two Conclusions

about the Christian Worldview:

1. *Parts* of it are not understandable outside of the *whole*.
2. It is not made up or self-generated.
 - We do not *choose* or *make-up* our “views” on any issues of importance.
 - We do not think any definition is possible without *authoritative information*.
 - Our definitions for things come from the revelation of the mind of the one who created them.
 - We can give direction for what each thing (and word) means and how each thing is to be used because we simply repeat the directions of the maker, who has the authority to give direction.

A little understood fact about Christians:

Christians simply aim to repeat the message of Jesus, as given to us through the writings of the New testament. For us, Jesus earned the right to tell us what the world really is, and how to live. Any authority lesser than his authority does not compete with his claim. If there's a conflict, he wins. We have no choice.

So, Followers of Jesus just ask, a simple questions: What does the bible (God) say about this issue? Then we just seek to understand, live out, and report what it says. Since what God says is *true*, and God is loving, this is the most loving thing we can do—and what God says is what will lead to the best for men and women. The fruit of our culture's ways, on the other hand, is self evident—**how are we doing** out there, with all these new ideas?

Session 01:

**Why Do We Say
What We Say
About These
Things?**

Q + R

1. We love all gay people and transgender people.
2. LGBTQ are all welcome to come here...
3. ...and we say the same thing to everyone who comes: Repent. Turn away from what the Bible calls sin and believe Christ. You can find the love of God and a whole new identity in him. Everyone is welcome to find the new life he offers, and to join us as we all seek to learn more and more how to follow Christ faithfully based on his written word. We want everyone to join us.
4. No one has to join us on this road. If repentance is not something you're interested in, you can choose not to be a part of our community in any meaningful way. This is true of any and all kind of people, regardless of their sexuality.