

# LGBTQ+

Helping you when you need to say something, but also want to be sensitive and keep the peace.

## Navigating this Resource

Below you will find some common conflicts between God's will and human wisdom. The topics are listed in alphabetical order in Forest Green. Under each topic is an example of a common ideology that falls under that topic. Following the ideology are a few possible comments you can make when you want to say something but are also concerned about being sensitive and preserving the friendship. These are not the only response but examples of ways to keep the conversation going while encouraging the person to clarify what they are saying, think more deeply about the subject, and open up an avenue for you to gently offer your concern or alternative viewpoint.

The responses below are best used with the questions posed in our resource Conversations, which can be found following the link below.

A scripture reference at the end of each section informs us of God's will regarding the particular ideology.

## Born this Way

### IMPROPER IDEOLOGY: WE WERE BORN THIS WAY (I.E., SO IT MUST BE GOOD)

Possible Response:

I don't believe since someone is born a certain way, that means it is good. I think people are accountable to the same standards of behavior regardless of their genetic makeup (e.g., murder, embezzlement, etc.). What do you think?

Could you help me understand how feelings or genetic makeup determine right from wrong (e.g., pedophilia, adultery, etc.)?

Many behaviors may seem personal, natural, and right to some, but they are still morally wrong acts.

Consider:

We may have strong desires, but our conduct is not mandatory.

Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 19-20; 1 Timothy 1:9-10;  
Deuteronomy 22:5

## Consent (Sexual Relationships)

### IMPROPER IDEOLOGY: WHAT'S WRONG IF THEY ARE BOTH CONSENTING ADULTS

Possible Response:

I think some things are objectively wrong whether adults consent to them or not (e.g., a beaten spouse who agrees she deserved it). What do you think?

Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9-10; Deuteronomy 22:5

## Equality

### IMPROPER IDEOLOGY: EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE TREATED EQUALLY

Possible Response:

I agree with you in most cases. Everyone should have equal opportunities (e.g., for a job, promotion, etc.). But I don't believe just because something isn't equal; it always means it's bad/wrong. What do you mean when you say everyone needs to be treated equally?

For example, a worker, who does just enough not to get fired, shouldn't be paid the same as someone going above and beyond to complete their work.

The inequality of Christ's death on the cross paid the price of our sins and justified us before God.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15; Luke 12:48

## Identity

### IMPROPER IDEOLOGY: IDENTITY IS WHAT A PERSON THINKS THEY ARE (PSYCHOLOGICAL IDENTIFICATION)

Possible Response:

I'm confused. I've had many times my emotions have fed me lies. Wouldn't this reasoning insinuate no one could encourage a depressed person they have value?

I would not ignore the impact perception can have on a person. But neither would I claim that perception can change the outside world's reality.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13-17; 1 John 3:2

## Legislate Morality

### IMPROPER IDEOLOGY: WE SHOULDN'T LEGISLATE MORALITY

Possible Response:

Am I correct in saying you want your morality imposed through legislation (e.g., LGBTQ+ rights, hate crimes should be illegal, etc.)?

Wouldn't you say all laws legislate morality? They impose a moral code.

Consider:

Many people believe that whatever is legal is moral, and legalizing something encourages such behavior.

Matthew 14:3-4; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:20

## Pride

### IMPROPER IDEOLOGY: EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Possible Response:

I like the concept, but I struggle to see this playing out in the real world. Am I correct in saying those who do not celebrate the LGBTQ+ lifestyle are not always welcomed or included?

All *are* welcome within the church. You can even pick which kind of sinner you'd like to sit next to, and people will gladly make room! No, you won't find sexual sins endorsed. Just like you won't find the pastor preaching on the goodness of being a greedy, lying, gossiping, gluttonous, busybody. But you will be welcomed into the body of believers, encouraged to take up your cross, and affirmed for who you truly are: an image-bearer of God.

2 Peter 3:9; Romans 10:14; Hebrews 10:26; 1 Corinthians 5:1-6

## Tolerance

### IMPROPER IDEOLOGY: WHAT ABOUT TOLERANCE (I.E., ACCEPTANCE)

Possible Response:

Tolerance is a virtue when listening to another's point of view. But I consider it a vice if you're talking about letting evil behavior overrun your society or prevent constructive dialogue over conflicting ideas or principles.

So, tolerance is not always the answer.

1 Corinthians 5:1-6, 9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:5-10

## **Would You Like Help Navigating a Cultural Issue?**

Do you have a question that goes deeper than what we have here? Get in touch with us by emailing [brueckj@sturgismissionarychurch.com](mailto:brueckj@sturgismissionarychurch.com).