

May 20-21, 2023

Skeptics Welcome
Isn't Christianity Homophobic?

The Scripture: James 1:13-15, Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Leviticus 19, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5,7, Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 5:16-25, John 4:1-43, John 8:1-11, Luke 7:36-50, Matthew 9:9-13, Luke 19:1-9

Big Idea: If we look at Jesus, how He lived and how He desires His followers to live, the simple response to this question is: No, at its core Christianity is not homophobic.

The Challenge: Unfortunately, the lived and experienced reality for many people and the perception of the church often gives a different answer. The question to ask and ponder is then, 'Why does it seem like the Church and many Christians are homophobic?'

Pastor Cody's Prayer for this Message: My prayer is that we would look to Jesus as our example in how we should engage and love gay, same-sex attracted, and other LGBTQ+ people. That we at KAC would be people who remain curious and humble, seeking to understand and not just be understood. And that we would recognize that God's desire for all His people is that they would live lives of sexual integrity, surrendering and stewarding this part of their lives in a way that is honourable to Him.

Questions for Discussion:

1. **Introduction: What has been informing and forming your view on gender, sex, and sexuality? How does scripture speak into where you have arrived?**
2. **Do you think it's fair to say that many people view Christians as homophobic?**
3. **What is your reaction to the statement: 'Some Christians are homophobic, and others act in ways that are unbiblical'?**
 - What is your attitude towards those who are gay, same-sex attracted, or LGBTQ+?
 - What has your experience been with gay, same-sex attracted, or LGBTQ+ people?
4. **What is your reaction to the statement: 'Christians have made an idol of sex, romantic relationships, and marriage'?**
 - How do you think KAC can become a community where all people, single or married, are able to belong and thrive?
 - What would need to change in your life to make more space for the 'church family'?
5. **Jesus calls His people to deny themselves and follow Him (Matt. 16:24). This is true about our sexuality, but it is also true about every aspect of our lives.**
 - What does stewarding your sexuality and living with sexual integrity look like?
 - In what other areas is Jesus calling you to deny a desire, in order that you may follow Him more wholeheartedly?
6. **How does the way we see Jesus interact with the 'sinners' and 'deviants' of His time, influence how we should interact with people often viewed the same way by many religious people today?**
 - What was His approach?
 - We desire to be a place with a hospitable orthodoxy. How can we better love, care, and draw LGBTQ+ people in, to have encounters with Jesus while holding to a historical understanding of gender, sex, and sexuality?