

RESPONDING REDEMPTIVELY TO THOSE WHO HAVE SAME SEX ATTRACTIONS!

I get asked often how should we respond to an LGBTQ individual? That is a valid question. Among those in our culture today, it seems the response is either condone or condemn. Are these our only options? They are not! The best response is one that is redemptive. Here is some insight to help you in responding redemptively.

BECOME INFORMED ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY.

a. Read what God says about this subject in the Bible. When reading what the Bible says about the subject, consider the following passages: Genesis 19, Judges 19, Leviticus 18:1-30, 20:7-24, Romans 1:18-32, I Corinthians 6:9-11, I Timothy 1:8-11, Revelation 22:14-15

Read all of what it says. Resist the urge to pick a verse here and there in order to support your own opinion. Let the Bible inform your opinion.

Read it in its context. When you read the Old and New Testament passages on homosexuality you will notice that homosexuality is spoken of usually if not always in the context of other sexual sin.

b. Talk with someone who has been involved and is now walking in freedom.

c. Read some accurate books about the subject and issue.

- "Desires In Conflict" Joe Dallas
- "101 Questions" Mike Haley
- "Restoring Sexual Identity" Anne Paulk
- "When Homosexuality Hits Home" Joe Dallas
- "Live Free...One Step At A Time" (A Bible Study) Hal & Lisa Selby

BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT BEING REDEMPTIVE.

Being intentional about being redemptive means we will do the following:

a. Evaluate how you are "known" and make changes where needed. Are you known as someone who is condemning and critical related to homosexuality? Are you known as someone that those who struggle with same sex issues would come to for help? Are their changes in how you are known that need to take place?

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b. Develop a redemptive mindset. By redemptive mindset, I am referring to what I see in Jesus as He interacted with "sinners" of all kinds. When I consider what I find in the gospels, I believe that the following perfectly characterizes Jesus and His actions are redemptive. Redemptive actions are actions toward someone with the goal of influencing them toward redemption. Redemptive actions follow a redemptive mindset. Here is what a redemptive mindset looks like.

Never be content to leave anyone in their sin. Genesis 3:9, Luke 15:4-7, 19: 10

Never condemn anyone for their sin. John 3: 17, 8: 10-11 a

Never categorize sin. I Corinthians 6:9-10

Never compromise the Word of God about any sin . I Corinthians 6:9-11

Always communicate Truth in the context of love & grace. Romans 2:4, 5:8, I John 4: 19

Always call the individual to Jesus who alone transforms lives. Acts 4: 12, 2 Cor. 5: 17

Always challenge the individual to go and sin no more. (And it is possible.) John 8: 11

c. Create a safe environment where those who are impacted by homosexuality will not be ridiculed or condemned but will find help and support to walk in freedom from same sex attractions.

d. Be proactive and begin addressing this subject and that of healthy sexuality with our students so that the next generation will know the truth.

BEGIN BEING INVOLVED IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO HAVE SAME SEX ATTRACTIONS

Being involved means we are building relationships with those impacted by homosexuality in order to show them love, extend to them grace and to share with them truth that will lead to transformation in their lives. "Being involved" suggests not a onetime event but a relationship.

We can't just do nothing! We can't just say it is wrong! We have no right to condemn! We must not compromise! We must seek to have a redemptive influence.