

Question: What do you think Jesus would say to a gay person in today's world, especially about gay marriage?

From what I know about the Bible, I am convinced that Jesus would respond to a gay person in this manner: "I want you to know that I love you and care for you very much, even if you choose not to believe it. My father in heaven loves you and wants to share an eternal fellowship with you. He created all humans, including you, in his own likeness (Genesis 1:27). But all humans have sinned (Romans 3:21). The image of God in them has been marred. Sin has also brought you into a fallen, broken world with all of the devastating effects which you now experience (Gen. 3). This situation was not of our choosing but of humanity's choosing.

"Even before sin came, the Father had a plan. At just the right time, he sent me into the world to redeem the world, including you, from the guilt, power and brokenness of sin (Galatians 4:4-5). After teaching about the God's plan for life and providing an example of how to live, I demonstrated the extent of our love for you and all humanity by suffering and dying on a cross, rejected by the very people I loved (Isaiah 51:3-5). On the third day, I was raised to life again and many witnesses saw me alive (1 Corinthians 15:2-8). The Father and I have continued to love even those who reject us and turn away from our love (Rom.5:6-8).

"Now for the part you may find most difficult to accept. Our love and care for you does not mean we approve of everything you or any other human may do. I ask that you not despise and hate us because you disagree with us. God the Father and I will never do that to you. Instead, we will continue to love you and all others who continue to reject us. Please do not stop reading here because you think you know what I am going to say. The Father and I do not like being unjustly judged any more than you.

"When God created humans, he made them male and female and told them to be fruitful, increase in number and fill the earth (Gen. 1:27-28). The male was created first. When all of the animals were passed before him, he saw that there was no suitable helper for him among them. Then, the female, not another male, was made to be that appropriate mate and helper. She was like him; yet, she was different. The woman was given to the man, and marriage began. God said, 'a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his

wife, and they will become one flesh' (Gen. 2:18-25). This original design and purpose for marriage can only be fulfilled by the union of males and females. God's Holy Spirit through my apostle Paul declared that when men or women depart from this original plan for their sexuality, they are exchanging 'natural sexual relations for unnatural ones' (Romans 1:26-27 NIV). You can see that the physical anatomy of males and females is designed for them to be one flesh in marriage and not for those of the same sex to be one in body.

“This does not mean that we view homosexual conduct as a worse sin than any other. Both homosexual and heterosexual immorality are harmful to individuals and society. Heterosexual fornication and adultery are also a departure from the original and natural plan for marriage and family. You will find that where homosexual behavior is spoken against in the Bible it is only one of many sins. The lists of sins include liars, thieves, drunkards, the greedy and slanderers, along with homosexual practices (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9-10).

“You may say that you cannot help being drawn by passionate sexual feelings toward a person of the same sex in ways that you do not feel for persons of a different sex. Among my earliest followers in ancient Corinth were some who had been active in a homosexual lifestyle, but they made a choice to trust in me and to stop their homosexual behavior. They were washed and made holy and right before God in my name and by the Spirit of our God (1 Cor. 6:11). You may not change your desires, but you can change your behavior just as those people did. This is all that the Father and I ask of you. All humans, heterosexual or homosexual, must exercise control over their sexual behavior.

“If at any time you decide to trust in me and end your homosexual practices, I will help you. I have sent the Holy Spirit to live in my followers and to help them (John 14:15-17). I made the choice to suffer and die for you. Therefore, you can be assured I will never forsake you. If you will trust and obey me, I will walk with you through whatever difficulties you may face. The Father and I want only the best for you both now and forever. We stand waiting for you to make your decision. Please don't reject our love and blessings.”

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