

life group study

**how do I love someone who is homosexual
without contradicting the Bible?**



LIFE GROUPS
doing life together

Let's be honest, there's no easy way to step into this discussion. Even as you read the question itself, I bet it conjured up a strong emotion in you. Fear? Anger? Sadness? Confusion? Maybe you rolled your eyes, or thought of a well-known Bible verse. Perhaps you envisioned a militant protest on the steps of the Capitol building, or maybe you thought of a family member. Homosexuality is a hot-button issue that many sincere people see differently, and so it's also one the church can no longer throw a few trite sayings at and just move on. This issue is here to stay, and our culture won't allow us to sidestep the conversation.

Q: What was your instinctive emotion when you heard we were going to discuss this issue?

Q: It's easy to argue about an issue, it's harder when you're talking about a person. Is there someone close to you that identifies himself or herself as a homosexual? How do you interact with him or her?

Q: Why do you think it's so hard to talk about this in a church setting?

How do I love a homosexual that is far from God?

Read: Genesis 1:27

Q: Do you believe everyone is created in the image of God?

Q: How can we show dignity to someone, even if we disagree with his or her lifestyle?

Read: John 8

Q: How did Jesus interact with the woman caught in adultery?

Q: How did Jesus react to this woman's sin? By not condemning her, did he condone her actions?

Q: How might this impact the way we interact with those who identify as homosexuals?

Read: Romans 12:9-10

Q: What do you think it means to really love others?

Q: "Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good." Can we do this *and* still love well? How?

"We should neither dilute ethical standards in a bid to show compassion to violators nor callously consign violators to hell in an effort to preserve standards. Jesus combined a compassionate outreach to "tax collectors and sinners" (Mark 2:15-17, Luke 15), including "sexual sinners"

– Robert A. J. Gagnon, Associate Professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Read: Mark 2:15-17

Q: Jesus spent a lot of time with disreputable people. Does this mean he approved of their behavior?

Q: Jesus said he came to call those “who know they are sinners.” How should we handle those who don’t see homosexuality as a sin?

A high view of grace does not mean a low view of the Law. Grace doesn’t mean the Law no longer matters. The standards of a holy God are not discarded because of the Gospel of grace, they are *fulfilled* by it.

How do I love a homosexual who is in the church?

The best way to talk to someone about righteousness is to start with where my righteousness came from (hint: it wasn’t me).

Read: Romans 13:8-10

Q: How do you want and need to be loved?

Q: When someone loves you well, what do they do? What do they say? How do they interact with you? How do they make you feel?

Read: Jude 22-23

Q: How do we confront sin and still love?

Q: How can we confront sin without portraying self-righteousness?

We’re not offended at being told we’re wrong, what we bristle at is self-righteousness.

Q: Who’s job is it to convict people of sin?

Q: Have you ever tried to do God’s work for Him? How? Did it go well?

Q: How can Christians better engage the issue of homosexuality?