

Life Group Homework Guide For the week of May 6, 2018 Got Questions – Part 4

What do I do if my child comes 'out' as gay, transsexual, bisexual? It seems our current generation of kids don't have any clarity because it is all individuality.... so it is excepting. How do you love on a grandchild without praising their lifestyle? A very hard type rope to walk.

- That all sin has the same effect with God. It separates us from him and that is why he sent his son Jesus Christ to die in our place, to take the penalty of our sin. But all sin has different consequences and penalties that are connected to them. Read Romans 1:27
- Telling a lie has different consequences than murder. Committing Adultery has different consequences than gossiping about your neighbor. But they all have the same affect in our relationship with God. And that when we make a commitment to follow him we are surrendering ourselves to follow him no matter what he has to say.
- How I answer this is determined by 'how' they are coming out.
- If my Child tells me that he has a same sex attraction or attracted to different sexes or believes that he is the wrong sex, I would not start with condemnation I would start with a hug mixed with tears that you love them and are there to help.
- If my Child is not a follower of Jesus Christ, then I have no expectations that they will follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. They are a non-believer and they are going to do whatever they want. I still teach them the truth as I always have.
- If my child is a follower of Jesus Christ and has these feeling but has no intention of practicing the lifestyle. I can come alongside them, like with any other sinful thoughts my child will have, and point them to the truth of the word of God where freedom can be found.
- If my child says that they are a follower of Jesus Christ and they intend to live the lifestyle then my choices just got difficult and potentially messy. Read Matthew 18:15-17
- Whether it is a sin against you personally or in general I am commanded to go to the person **privately**. I don't share it with my small group, I don't put it as a prayer request for the church staff to pray about it, I go to him/her and get the details, find out what is going on, **privately**. The hope and prayer is that it would stop there, that they would repent, trust in God and get the accountability that they need.
- **If they choose to not listen**, they say they know what the bible says and I am going to practice it. Then your next step just got messier because now you have to include others. These others are back up, they are there to verify the story. The hope is that with several people showing love, compassion and concern for the person they will then repent, trust in God and get the accountability. BUT, If they don't repent?
- Now your decision of what to do just got more intense because now you are including the church. The Pastor and Elders are called in. If they won't listen to them then they are to not be associated with as a brother/sister in Christ.
- Paul talking to the church in Corinth about one of their own who was sleeping with his step mother. He tells them to deal with it, not ignore it, not love them through it. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13
- Paul tells the church in Thessalonica to stay away from, to not associate with a lazy brother. 2 Thessalonians 3:6-16
- Paul warns Titus to have nothing to do with a divisive person. Titus 3:10
- The purpose of church discipline is three-fold:
 - It is to confront the sinner with their sin with the hope of bringing about their repentance and restoration to fellowship, with God and with the church (Matthew 18:15).
 - Church discipline protects the church from the influence of this individual by removing them from the fellowship (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).
 - Church discipline removes the sinning individual from divine protection and instead hands them over to Satan for discipline, which could be severe (1 Corinthians 5:5; 1 Timothy 1:20).
- **Illustration:** If you child refuses to obey you after giving him opportunity to say they are sorry and wont do it again, you as a good parent will take privileges away, spank them, send them to their room with out dinner, ground them. Why, it must mean that you hate them and aren't very loving to them, OR you love them so much but you know the path that they are on is destructive and you have to do something to get their attention. Some of you have even had your kid taken from the home and sent to an wilderness experience as a last ditch hope. Why, because ultimately that is what LOVE does.
- Video resource available in the church library. **"How do you like me now."**

Would I be going against my faith and religion if I went to a gay wedding?

- On June 26, 2015, In a 5-to-4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that states cannot ban same-sex marriage.
- Read - Colossians 3:5-6 "We weep over our sins. We don't celebrate them. We don't institutionalize them." John Piper
- First off let me say that nowhere in the bible does it say to not go or that you should go to a same sex wedding. But it doesn't say to go to or not go to a heterosexual wedding either.

- Read Romans 14. This falls into territory where God's word and your conscience have to be without doubt. Ultimately knowing God is our judge and knows the purity of our motives. If you have any doubt, then don't. Romans 14:23 - Everything not done through faith is sin.
 - The word "wedding" is mentioned 7 times in the bible. The word "weddings" is not mentioned; then another variation of the word such as "marriage" is mentioned 19 times in the bible
 - There are pastors on both sides of the fence on this answer. Here is where I (Tim) stand. - Thoughts from Pastor John Piper
1. It is not a wedding, not a marriage. It would be false to attend. There is no such thing as a 'same sex marriage' in the eyes of God. God has defined marriage as a covenantal union of a man and a woman for life. This isn't that therefore this is not a marriage, not a wedding, so I'm not going to lie about what is happening by attending.
 2. This 'union' is not being joined in heaven. Jesus said, "What God has joined together let no man separate. This is what makes weddings awesome is that something supernatural happens. God makes them one.
 3. It would be hateful for me to bless it because it would be confirming a lifestyle that leads someone to destruction. 1 Cor 6:8-10
 - To celebrate this lifestyle is to celebrate the destruction of human beings. That is hateful
 - It would be like gathering to celebrate those who are thieves, those who had had a DUI, those who sleep out on their spouse
 4. Will defile the drama between Jesus Christ and the church. God designed marriage to describe his covenant between Jesus and his bride. To celebrate a bride-less marriage as a union is to distort the parable of the most beautiful act in the world. Eph 5:22-32
 5. The weight of sorrow, love, revulsion would overwhelm me
 6. My not going is not drawing away from my child but he/she is drawing from me. I will always have my arms open wide to welcome and forgive the prodigal child – anything.

What is an acceptable level of intimacy before marriage? How far is too far?

- You will first have to answer me where is your starting point? **Is my chief concern to live biblically or am I trying to squeeze as much sexual license as I possibly can out of a holy God?**
- If one is at the bottom of the scale and 10 is at the top and 1 is holding hands and 10 is full on sexual intercourse, where is my starting point? Am I starting at 10 and working myself down or starting at 1 and working my way up.
- This is how I define sex: "Any engagement that is stimulating you in such a way that can only be satisfied by an orgasm or sexual intercourse."
- So heavy kissing, petting, grinding, oral sex, would be included within the definition. And depending on your relationship, holding hands can be just as stimulating.
- Paul tells us that if we can't control ourselves sexually then it is better to marry than to burn. 1 Corinthians 7:9 So put some controls in place if you are dating. Talk about it a lot. And if you can't control yourself then it may be time to call it off until you can.

Why is it wrong to have sex before marriage, if you are in love, and seeing each other exclusively and even planning on marriage down the road, wouldn't God understand? And MOST couples, even those in church do not wait.

- God is Brilliant in how he has ordered things. He is not holding this incredible thing of sex from you He is telling you that the only thing that can possibly contain the power of sex is a marriage between a man and a woman.
- When you have sex with someone else who is not your spouse, then you are sharing something so intimate that now another person knows and has something of yours that you can never, ever get back. And because you can't get that back you will be tempted or your spouse will be tempted now, knowing that someone else has shared your most intimate parts which leads to resentment or comparison, and we always lose in those games. Save it for that person. Hebrews 13:4
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- Put some controls in place if you are dating. Talk about it a lot and make a plan.
- Sex was designed to be kept in marriage. Marriage is the only thing that can contain the passion and emotions. Sex is not just a physical act it is a spiritual act that goes to the core of who we are. That is why such damage can happen when sex is abused or misused.

If you didn't save yourself for marriage, does that mean you cannot get married in the church?

- When I sit down with a couple we talk about a lot of things, one of which is sex. When I ask them if they are engaged in sex, usually the guys eyes pop out in shock that I am asking such a direct question. If they say yes, then this is my challenge to them.
 - How about for the next 4 months we put Mr. Happy in the jar and wait until the honeymoon begins? Let me tell you why. I cannot give you back your first time, but I can add some excitement and anticipation for the honeymoon.
 - I also ask them why they wanted me in particular to perform the ceremony. Now I am not looking for accolades and want them to get to the point that because I represent God they want God to be apart of the wedding and to bless it.
 - That is when I say that if you want God to bless it then how about we live in such a way that can be blessed by God.