

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Why are Christians so judgemental?

Introduction:

Most people in same-sex relationships don't leave the church because they were told this is wrong. They leave because they were dehumanized, ridiculed, and excluded. Truth is one of the most loving things you can do, but it should never be used as a weapon to devalue or dehumanize anyone.

Getting Started:

Read Matthew 19:4-5, Hebrews 13:4, Matthew 19:19, John 3:17

1. When have you ever felt dehumanized, ridiculed, or excluded? What did you do about it?
2. In our own life, have you ever been guilty of making inappropriate jokes or comments toward same sex attracted people? Knowing that love is commanded and agreement is optional, what is one step you could take to reach out in love?
3. What does the Bible say about God's design for marriage? What does that mean for all of us, regardless of sexual orientation?

Read Hebrews 4:15-16

Our theology should increase our empathy. Our church should be a safe place for everyone.

4. Do you feel empathy at church? Why or Why not?
5. How does it help you to know that Jesus knows everything about you and empathizes with you? Do you feel you could go to God boldly in prayer with whatever and receive mercy? Why or why not?

Read John 3:30, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Chasing after the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives should be the path for every Christ follower, regardless of orientation. Our primary identity should only be found in Jesus.

6. How easy is it for you to say: More of Jesus, less of me?
7. Think of one area of your life that needs to be submitted.

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