

Some Questions for Group Discussion from the Other Side Magazine

Please answer the following questions as honestly as you can, then discuss

In your opinion, is a homosexual orientation in *itself* sinful? YES NO UNSURE

Do you agree with those who say that homosexuality is the *vilest* of all sins? YES NO UNSURE

Do you favor laws guaranteeing equal rights in all respects to gay and lesbian people? YES NO UNSURE

Do you believe that sexual orientation – whether homosexual or heterosexual – is most a matter of conscious, personal choice?

YES NO UNSURE

Do you believe a person can be both gay or lesbian and Christian? YES NO UNSURE

Do you believe God wants all homosexual people to become heterosexual? YES NO UNSURE

Is celibacy a valid option for homosexual Christians? YES NO UNSURE

If a celibate, homosexual Christian applied for membership in your church, how would you respond?

I'D WARMLY WELCOME THE PERSON I'D CAUTIOUSLY ACCEPT THE PERSON

I'D RELUCTANTLY TOLERATE THE PERSON I'D FIRMLY RESIST THE PERSON

If a devout homosexual Christian, who was celibate, sought a leadership role in your church, perhaps on the pastoral staff, how would you respond?

I'D WARMLY WELCOME THE PERSON I'D CAUTIOUSLY ACCEPT THE PERSON

I'D RELUCTANTLY TOLERATE THE PERSON I'D FIRMLY RESIST THE PERSON

Do you believe a loving, long-term, committed relationship with someone of the same sex is a valid option for homosexual Christians?

YES NO UNSURE

If a homosexual Christian who was involved in a loving, long-term, committed relationship with someone of the same sex applied for membership in your church, how would you respond?

I'D WARMLY WELCOME THE PERSON I'D CAUTIOUSLY ACCEPT THE PERSON

I'D RELUCTANTLY TOLERATE THE PERSON I'D FIRMLY RESIST THE PERSON

If a devout homosexual Christian, who was involved in a loving, long-term, committed relationship with someone of the same sex, sought a leadership role in your church, perhaps on the pastoral staff, how would you respond?

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Do you believe that the regulations of the Old Testament levitical law – including condemnations of homosexual relations, the stoning of disobedient children, and the abstaining from all forms of sexual contact during the time of a woman’s period – should be applied in a literal fashion to Christians today?

YES NO UNSURE

Do you agree with those who say procreation is the only valid function of sexual activity?

YES NO UNSURE

Look over the following statements. Put a tick in front of those that have been true in your own experience.

Gay and lesbian people are often among the most devout and spiritually sensitive people in a community.

Gay and lesbian people are usually warmer and more loving than straight people.

Gay and lesbian people seldom have any interest in God.

Gay and lesbian people often make me feel uncomfortable.

Heterosexual people often make me feel uncomfortable.

Because of the rejection they’ve often felt from the Church, gay and lesbian Christians often seem to have deeper personal commitment to God and his love than do heterosexual Christians.

Gay and lesbian people are often the victims of *subtle* discrimination.

Gay and lesbian people are often the victims of *overt* discrimination.

Gay and lesbian people often have a stronger commitment to peace and justice than do straight people.

Gay and lesbian people often have deep scars from the misguided efforts of straight Christians.

Gay and lesbian people are personally better off when they pretend to be heterosexual.

Gay and lesbian people are usually obsessed with sexual intercourse.

Gay and lesbian people tend to know the importance of standing with the oppressed.

Here are some statements about homosexuality and the Bible. Put a tick in front of each statement with which you agree. Tick as many-or a few-as you want:

The New Testament condemns all homosexual behavior - and that’s the standard we should go by today.

The New Testament condemns all homosexual behavior – but we shouldn’t single out homosexual people for any special judgments. After all, all of us, in one way or another, have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

New Testament writers had only a limited understanding of homosexuality – so we shouldn’t necessarily view there references to it as normative.

The New Testament condemns certain kinds of homosexual behavior – but that doesn’t mean *all* homosexual behavior is wrong.

_The New Testament makes very little reference to homosexuality – and those references it does make are unclear in their meaning for us today. We should look to larger biblical principles and God’s Spirit for guidance on this subject.

_The New Testament, when taken as a whole, should be seen as approving homosexual relationships that are faithful, loving, and God-centred.

_New Testament views on sexual behavior don’t really matter. We should engage in whatever sexual activities bring us pleasure.

_The New Testament calls us to “seek first the kingdom of God” even in our sexual behavior.