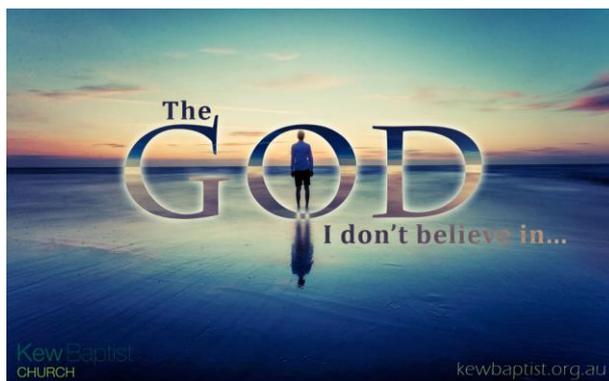


## The Homophobic God

### Homophobia and the Church

“Simply put, *homophobia* means a fear of homosexuality and, more specifically, homosexual people. And while it is not the same as loving, biblical opposition to certain behaviours or beliefs, this fear-based attitude often leads to unhelpful stereotypes, prejudice, and even cruel mistreatment.”



“No one could deny that professed Christians have used very condescending and spiteful language toward gay people (and, shamefully, sometimes even resorted to violence).” John Dickson

“If you are a member of the gay community, the most important thing you need to hear me say is simply this: “I’m sorry”. I’m sorry that the church has for so long made you feel inferior because of your orientation. I’m sorry that we have not slowed down enough to understand your struggles, and I’m sorry we have not represented Jesus to you as we are called to.” Bruxy Cavey

***Discuss the issue of Homophobia and how Jesus would call his people to respond and reach out to the LGBTI community***

### Politics and Culture and Same Sex Marriage

There is a cultural battle being played out in the West over the issue of SSM, gender theory and traditional marriage.

“I support same-sex marriage yet am deeply uncomfortable with the assumption that anyone with reservations must be a bigot and a homophobe. That is the level of the debate in Australia, and it is championed by so-called “progressives”, who display with glee the same intolerance they rightly accuse churches as historically holding.” Gal Alcorn, Editor The Guardian

“Something terrifying has happened during the past five years: a belief that was held by virtually all human beings for centuries has been rebranded as bigotry... That belief...is that marriage is a union of opposite sexes. This was once seen as a perfectly normal point of view. Now, in the historical blink of an eye, it has been denormalised, and with such ferocity and speed that anyone still brave enough to express it runs the risk of being ejected from public life.” Brendan O’Neill, Marxist Atheist

“Please know that it is possible for someone to believe that homosexual sexual expression is wrong, a sin, just as they believe that heterosexual sexual expression outside of marriage is sin, and that doesn’t make them a bigot, a redneck, or homophobic in the least.” Bruxy Cavey

***What are helpful ways Christians can be involved in this political and social discussion about marriage?***

### Biblical Issues: what do Christians believe around the area of homosexuality?

From the very first years of its existence, the church has had homosexual members. (1 Corinthians 6). The church was born into a culture of widespread homosexuality and also paedophilia. It was

common and accepted that adult males in Greco Roman culture would have young boys as sexual partners.

“Let me remind you that the Bible never condemns orientation. There isn’t even a word for “homosexual” in the ancient languages. Only chosen behaviours and attitudes are discussed. As John Stott explains, “In every discussion about homosexuality we must be rigorous in differentiating between ‘being’ and ‘doing’ — that is, between a person’s identity and activity, sexual preference and sexual practice, constitution and conduct.” Bruxy Cavey

**Read Romans 1:18-32**

***Discuss what arguments Paul is making here and how homosexuality fits into the overall scheme of his description of fallen humanity.***

**Read: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

***Discuss the makeup of the church at Corinth and how Paul deals pastorally with the members there. Discuss also how we are to live in the light of the good news of Jesus.***

### **Desire and Identity**

“For the Christian an individual is not purely defined on the basis of their sexual orientation or activity. It may be an important part of our self-expression but it is not the final definition point of our nature. The Bible teaches that all human beings are created in the image of God and that human life is therefore precious. The individual has significance and dignity just by being human; every human is loved by God” Amy Orr Ewing

“To be a Christian is to believe that Jesus is our Lord – not our past, our biology, or our desires. Biological determinism is never the answer. Biology is not destiny. Life is about choice. I am not suggesting we can choose our sexual orientation, but I am saying we can all choose how we live. Not every desire I have should be indulged, whether I was born with them or not.” Bruxy Cavey

“The truth is that sin is sin, temptation is temptation, and “men who have sex with men” is listed right alongside greed, drunkenness, deception, and slander as worthy of exclusion from the Kingdom (1 Corinthians 6:9–10). All equally damnable. Who among us is innocent?”

***How do we cultivate healthy desires and living as followers of Jesus?***

### **CONCLUSION:**

**Premise 1:** the biblical view of humanity is that EVERY PERSON is made in God’s image, precious and loved by God and by virtue of that fact is bestowed with intrinsic worth, dignity and value. However, humanity has fallen short and become broken and disfigured by sin and selfishness.

**Premise 2:** Through Jesus and the good news of God’s grace, EVERYONE is included in his kingdom regardless of anything they have done. The doorway Jesus invited EVERYONE to come through was called repentance.

**Premise 3:** Through Jesus and the good news of God’s grace, EVERYONE, is called to a new ethic of living in the spirit and example of Jesus’ love.

***Discuss this in the light of sexuality and gender issues.***

### **THE GOD WE BELIEVE IN**

As a church, and as Christians we should offer to the LGBTI community: **1. Welcome. 2. Friendship. 3. Truth. 4. Gospel. 5. Hope.**

No one in the world loves Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transsexual, Intersex people more than Jesus Christ. No one, not now, not ever.

“If you are a gay Christian, make Jesus, not your sexual rights, your focus and your Lord. As you do that, we will walk together as family, helping each other each step of the way.” Bruxy Cavey

Spend some time praying for the LGBTI community.

### **Videos**

Ravi Q&A (11mins): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPYRXop7aPA>

Is It Okay To Be Gay? A Candid Conversation on Christians and Same-Sex Attraction (41 mins): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJdEZv\\_24Uk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJdEZv_24Uk)

Professor Rosaria Butterfield: Homosexuality and the Christian Faith (30 mins): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkJZSeUGzWw>