


“AND IT WAS **GOOD**,”
BUT IT CAN ALSO BE **HARD**
AND **CONFUSING**:

CONSIDERING LGBT
IN LIGHT OF GENESIS 1

WE ARE NOT DISCUSSING A SUBJECT

- ▶ If you experience unwanted same sex attraction or gender dysphoria, I am glad that you are here. I appreciate your trust.
 - ▶ I hope that you find this discussion honors your experience and makes it easier for you to talk with others.
 - ▶ I am sorry for the times you have felt like a subject to be debated.
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GENESIS 1:27 AND 2:24

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them... Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

3 QUESTIONS OR LENSES



Our focus will be on “What is hard?” more than “What is right?” or “Where do I belong?”

All 3 questions are important. Too often, however, conversations degenerate into debates about which question gets to be at the forefront.

WHAT ABOUT I COR. 5:9-11?

	Non-Christian	Exploring Faith	Professing Christian
Experiencing Temptation			
Succumbing to Temptation			
Repeatedly Falling to Temptation			I Corinthians 5:9-11
No longer calling the tempting action wrong			I Corinthians 5:9-11

The white boxes represent situations where friendship is not only permissible but encouraged by Scripture. The less frequently and more poorly we engage in friendship in the dark boxes, the more Christians who experiences SSA will migrate to the white boxes.


STARTING FRIENDSHIPS

Speak sympathetically to the struggle of SSA. Humble statements can go a long way.

“I can only imagine how hard it would be to experience unwanted same-sex attraction and feel caught in so many cultural debates. Trying to figure out who to talk to might be as hard as anything else. That would be incredibly lonely.”

A statement like this in social contexts where homosexuality is being debated raises a flag of peace to be seen by those looking for a safe friend.

THE EXPERIENCE OF SSA

- ▶ The experience of having a secret
 - ▶ The experience of “I didn’t choose this.”
 - ▶ The experience of “It’s not all about sex.”
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FROM SSA TO A GAY IDENTITY

1. Initial Experience of SSA

- ▶ When do we (the church) invite conversation?

2. Behaviors in Response to SSA

3. The Question of Identity

4. The Milestone of Disclosure

- ▶ An uninvited conversation creates a more forceful dialogue.

5. The Establishment of a Same-Sex Relationship

BEING AN OPENLY CHRISTIAN FRIEND

Difficult questions and moments:

- ▶ Are you going to try to convert me?
- ▶ Do you believe someone can be a “gay Christian”?
- ▶ Would you come to my wedding?
- ▶ What about Thanksgiving and Christmas?

MY GOAL FOR OUR TIME TOGETHER

- ▶ I want, in our friendships, for us to be able to step out of a culture war and see a person.
- ▶ I want us to create church cultures where young people struggling with same sex attraction feel like they can talk about their experience.
- ▶ I want how we approach this subject to represent God's compassion as much as (no less than) it dispenses God's truth.